HENNESSY'S
THREE STAR
BRANDY.
Insist upon having it.

The Bombay Gazette.

No. 53,061—New Series. BOMBAY:—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903. PRICE 4 ANNAS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY PRICE ANNAS 8.
THE INDIAN RAILWAY
TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.
The Best and Most Complete Guide in India.
Time and Fare Tables of all Indian Railways, Steam Boats, and Daks, Places of Interest—Inland and along the Coast, Postal and Telegraphic Information, &c., &c.
COLOURED MAP OF INDIA.
"Bombay Gazette" Press, Fort, Bombay

FOR BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

SHIPPING.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

LIST OF DEPARTURES FROM BOMBAY

WITH LIBERTY TO CALL AT BRINDISI AND MALTA.

Date of Sailing. 1904. Saturday, 2 p.m.	Steamer.	Tons.	Connecting at Aden with	Tons.
2nd Jan.	ORIENTAL	6234	CHINA	7912
9th "	CALEDONIA	7458	.....	.....
16th "	PENINSULAR	5284	VICTORIA	6923
23rd "	EGYPT	7912	.....	.....
30th "	ORIENTAL	6234	HIMALAYA	6898
6th Feb.	MARMORA	10600	.....	.....
13th "	PENINSULAR	5284	INDIA	7911
20th "	ARABIA	7063	.....	.....
27th "	ORIENTAL	6234	MOLDAVIA	9777
5th Mar.	PERSIA	7951	.....	.....
12th "	PENINSULAR	5284	ARCADIA	6923
19th "	MACEDONIA	10620	.....	.....
26th "	ORIENTAL	6234	AUSTRALIA	6901
2nd Apl.	CALEDONIA	7558	.....	.....
9th "	PENINSULAR	5284	OCEANA	6510
16th "	EGYPT	7912	.....	.....
23rd "	ORIENTAL	6234	MONGOLIA	9500
30th "	ARABIA	7063	.....	.....
7th May	PENINSULAR	5284	CHINA	7912
14th "	MOLDAVIA	9777	.....	.....
21st "	ORIENTAL	6234	HIMALAYA	6898
28th "	PERSIA	7951	.....	.....

The above Steamers convey Passengers to Marseilles, Plymouth and London.
Passengers for Brindisi transhipp to a connecting steamer at Port Said

HEAVY BAGGAGE must be sent to the BALLARD PIER on FRIDAY AFTERNOON the day previous to sailing, and CABIN BAGGAGE before 9 A.M. on SATURDAY. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

Tenders leave the Ballard Pier on day of sailing.

All Passengers must attend at that place between 11-30 and 1 o'clock P.M. for Medical Inspection by the Health Officer of the Port, and no one will be allowed on Board the Mail Steamer unless so examined, and conveyed thence in the Company's Steam Barges. Special attention is directed to these regulations, which are imperative under the Venice Convention.

Friends of passengers cannot go on Board the Mail Steamer.

TO COLOMBO, STRAITS, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIA.

The Company's Steamers leave Bombay fortnightly usually on WEDNESDAYS, taking Passengers for the Straits, China, and Japan, and Return Tickets are issued on favourable terms.

Cargo Steamers are despatched to China at frequent intervals call at ports en route.

F. RITCHIE,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.
Bombay, 21st November, 1903.

HOMEWARD PASSAGES.

GRINDLAY GROOM & Co.,
BOMBAY.

PASSENGERS booked without charge, and on Favourable Terms. Berths carefully selected.
SLEEPING CAR and CONTINENTAL RAILWAY TICKETS procured.
RAILWAY OFFICIALS and MISSIONARIES booked at Reduced Rates.
PASSAGES booked to ENGLAND via JAPAN and AMERICA, by the Canadian Pacific, Occidental and Oriental, and Pacific Mail Routes.
HANDBOOK giving Details of Fares, &c., and List of Sailings by all Lines sent free on application.
ACCOUNTS kept and Interest allowed.
Shipping and Insurance offices covering all risks.
PACKAGES cleared or shipped.
CIRCULAR NOTES, BANK NOTES, DRAFTS, and SOVEREIGNS at current rates.

Calcutta Agents.—GRINDLAY & Co.
LONDON AGENTS.—GRINDLAY & Co.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.

TO MARSEILLES.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	To Sail on THURSDAY.
NERA	5,876	Chevallier	31st Dec. 1903.
CALEDONIEN	4,918	Marcantetti	28th Jan. 1904.
DUMBEA	5,807	Schmitz	25th Feb. 1904.

INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS WITH the AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S. N. Co.

The Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Messageries Maritimes, and the return voyage by the Austrian Lloyd's at Reduced Fares. This arrangement will prove, in some cases, of special advantage to Passengers on three months' privilege leave.

TO AUSTRALIA DIRECT,
AND THE FAR EAST, TRANSHIPPING AT COLOMBO.

S.S. "VILLE DE LA CIOTAT," 6,630 tons, Captain Flaschi, to sail on or about the 8th Jan. 1904.
For further Particulars apply to
P. de BURE, Agent.
New Oriental Bank Buildings, 57, Esplanade Road, Bombay.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S. N. Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH
THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

BOMBAY TO TRIESTE VIA ADEN, SUEZ & PORT SAID

DIRECT LINE.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To sail on
IMPERATRIX	G. Ghezzo	4,194	1st Jan. 1904.
IMPERATOR	F. Mosca	4,119	1st Feb. 1904.
IMPERATRIX	G. Ghezzo	4,194	1st Mar. 1904.
IMPERATOR	F. Mosca	4,119	1st Apr. 1904.

PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE OR VENICE	Rs. 600	Rs. 325	Rs. 150

ORDINARY LINE.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To sail on or about
*MARIA VALERIE	P. Berberovich	4,235	14th Feb. 1904

*Will call at Karachi. †Will call at Hanna.

PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE,

	Saloon.	Deck.
TO TRIESTE OR VENICE	Rs. 400	Rs. 150.

RETURN TICKETS TO TRIESTE AND VENICE AVAILABLE FOR ANY PERIOD WITHIN TWO YEARS.

1st Class Rs. 999. 2nd Class Rs 483. Saloon Rs. 666.

THROUGH TICKETS TO LONDON.

1st and 2nd Class Single and Return Tickets are issued via Trieste, the St. Gothards, and other Routes.

INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS WITH THE MESSAGERIES MARITIMES CO.

The Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Austrian Lloyd's and the Return Voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Co. at reduced fares.

Passengers to VENICE transhipp at TRIESTE to another steamer of the Company, which takes about 9 hours to cross the Gulf.

STEAM TO JAPAN VIA. COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To sail on or about
A STEAMER			29th Feb. 1904

For further particulars regarding Passages Apply to
F. SCARPA, Agent,
Sassoon House, 54, Church Gate Street, Fort, Bombay.

SHIPPING.

THE BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
Intend to despatch Steamers as follows :—

FOR KURRACHEE DIRECT.

S.S. "DWARKA," 1,700 tons, on FRIDAY, the 1st Jan., 1904, at 2 p.m., or later, on arrival of the English Mail.

FOR CUTCH MANDVI AND KARACHI.

S.S. "DUMRA," 1,700 tons, on MONDAY, 4th Jan., 1904, at 2 p.m.

FOR KATHIAWAR COAST PORTS, KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S.S. "KANGRA," 2,000 tons, on TUESDAY, the 5th Jan., 1904, at 10 a.m., calling (weather permitting) at Verawal, Mangrole, Porebander Cutch Mandvi, Karachi, Pashni, Muscat, Jask, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bahrein, Bushire and Koweit, in the foregoing or any order.

FOR KURRACHEE, MUSCAT, BUSHIRE AND BUSREH.

S.S. "KAPURTHALA," 1,200 tons, on THURSDAY, 31st December, at 10 a.m.

FOR PORBANDER, MOMBASA, ZANZIBAR, BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY AND DURBAN.

S.S. "LINDULA," 3,400 tons, on or about THURSDAY, the 31st Dec., (with transhipment at Durban to Company's Steamers for East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.)

FOR MORMUGOA, MOMBASA, ZANZIBAR, BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, AND DURBAN.

S.S. "NOWSHERA," 3,000 tons, on or about TUESDAY, 12th Jan., 1904, (with transhipment at Durban to Company's Steamers for East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.)

FOR COAST PORTS AND CALCUTTA.

S.S. "SECUNDRA," 2,600 tons, on or about 5th Jan., 1904.

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co.,
Agents.
Bombay, 30th December, 1903.

KING, KING & Co.,

BANKERS AND EAST INDIA AGENTS, BOMBAY.

PASSAGES engaged, and best available Berths secured, at Lowest Rates obtainable by P. & O., and all other Steamers, Free of Charge for Commission.

Latest List of Sailings, Fares, and full information furnished by return of post, on application.

Special attention paid to the grouping of Passengers travelling 2nd Class by P. & O.

Every Assistance rendered to Passengers on arrival in Bombay. Baggage taken over at the Railway Stations and Shipped.

Special Agents of the Firm meet all Steamers at Brindisi and Marseilles.

Packages of every description received for despatch as Cargo to Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., London; or Messrs. King, Baillie & Co., Liverpool. Freight and Marine Insurance at the Lowest Rates. Quotations furnished on Application.

KING, HAMILTON & CO.,
CALCUTTA.
HENRY S. KING & Co., LONDON.

ELLERMAN LINES OF STEAMERS.

(CITY & HALL LINES, etc.)

JOINT PASSENGER SERVICE.
RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY:—

From BOMBAY	1st Class. A.		1st Class but without Surgeon or Stewardess. B.		Cargo Boats or 2nd Class. C.	
	Single.	Return.	Single.	Return.	Single.	Return.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
To SUEZ	400	600	320	700	300	...
MARSEILLES	535	800	430	700	390	590
LIVERPOOL	550	850	470	720	420	640
LONDON via MARSEILLES (Overland)	600	...	525	..	450	..

Class.	Steamers.	Tons.	Commander.	Sail about 1904.
C.	HADDON HALL	6400	A. Buck	4th Jan.
C.	RYDAL HALL	2100	Walter Curtis	10th Jan.
A.	PROME	5200	F. McKay	12th Jan.
A.	CITY of ATHENS	8000	J. Wilson	3rd Feb.
B.	MERTON HALL	6700	C. Prowse	10th Feb.
A.	CITY of BOMBAY	6700	F. Snow	4th Mar.
A.	CITY of OXFORD	6600	A. Findlay	10th Mar.
A.	CITY of VENICE	6200	W. Knaut	20th Mar.
B.	MERTON HALL	6700	C. Prowse	26th Apl.
A.	CITY of VIENNA	6000	J. Campbell	30th Apl.

The above Steamers SAIL via KARACHI. Surgeon and Stewardess, Electric Light, &c. Special Rates for Missionaries, Planters, Railway Servants, &c.

For Passage and further Particulars, apply to
MESSRS. EDWARD BATES & SON'S AGENCY,
(KILLICK, NIXON & Co.)
Agents:—ELLERMAN LINES OF STEAMERS,
BOMBAY.

ANCHOR LINE.
HENDERSON BROTHERS, LIMITED.

SPECIALLY REDUCED FARES.

ON January 1st, 1903, the Anchor Line made an all-round reduction on their Indian Service Fares, and their rates of Passage Money are now as follows:—

Bombay to Liverpool (all the way by sea)....Rs. 550
Bombay to Marseilles..... " 525

Passengers proceeding to London from Marseilles are charged £5 extra for Railway Tickets at current rates of exchange on the fare to Marseilles. To New York, Rs. 700; Suez or Port Said, Rs. 350; London via Marseilles, Rs. 600.

Return Ticket to Liverpool (all the way by Sea), Rs. 950.
Bombay to London, via Marseilles, and back from Liverpool, Rs. 900.

Return Tickets are available for two years.

Besides the above reduction Concessions are also granted to Families, Railway employees, Hospital Nurses, Missionaries, Tea Planters, &c.

The Anchor Line have lately added several large new passenger steamers to their fleet, each carrying fifty to sixty First Class Passengers in large airy Cabins all situated on the Upper Deck. For comfort these steamers cannot be surpassed.

The Railway journey from Marseilles to London occupies about thirty hours. Each steamer carries a duly qualified surgeon and an experienced Stewardess and is fitted out with every comfort. All Cabins are on the Upper Deck.

The following sailings have been arranged:—

Steamers.	Captains	Tons.	Sailing about 1904.
MASSILIA	J. Thompson	5,353	20th Jan.
PERSIA	J. Mitchell	5,593	3rd Feb.
CIRCASSIA	Alex Hall	6,500	20th Feb.
OLYMPIA	C. F. Osborne, R.N.R.	5,124	8th Mar.
SCINDIA	S. Abrey	4,863	22nd Mar.
BRITANNIA	T. Blaikie	3,069	4th Apr.
MASSILIA	J. Thompson	5,353	19th Apr.

The advertised rates to Europe include a passage by steamers between Karachi and Bombay. Passengers wishing to embark at Karachi can obtain through tickets via Bombay to Europe. Passengers must obtain the tickets for such passages before embarking from Messrs. D. GRAHAM & Co. Karachi, or from us.

For rates for steamers not carrying Surgeon and Stewardess, or any other information regarding Passages, &c., apply to the Undersigned.

W. & A. GRAHAM & Co.,
Agents.
Graham's Buildings, Bombay.

OUR SPECIALITIES FOR THE LAST 35 YEARS.

HAMS, BACON AND CHEESE.

AS SUPPLIED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSES
SIMLA, CALCUTTA, MADRAS & BOMBAY
and over [illegible]
CLUBS AND MESSES THROUGHOUT INDIA AND BURMA.

BARNES & CO'S

OILMEN STORES

FRESH EVERY FORTNIGHT BY P. AND O. MAIL STEAMER FROM LONDON.

PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.

W. B. GREEN & CO.,

PROVISION MERCHANTS, CATERERS, &c.,

APOLLO BUNDER, BOMBAY,

GREEN'S CAFÉ RESTAURANT.

ESTABLISHED 1868.

TRY! TRY!! TRY!!!

DR. SPOONER HART'S

1. PREPARED MEAL FOR DOGS. 2. BISCUITS FOR DOGS. 3. PREPARED FOOD FOR POULTRY.
4. 'NUTRIENT' (a rich Fluid Food given with the ordinary food) for HORSES and CATTLE.

1. Every Dog owner should use Dr. Spooner Hart's Prepared Meal for Dogs, a stable diet of great value and equally suitable for all classes and is *par excellence* the food for puppies.
Rs. 1-0 per 10-lb. bag.

2. Biscuits for Dogs—An appetising staple diet for sporting and other Dogs.
Rs. 2-0 per 10-lb. bag.

3. Prepared Food for Poultry—Will double the profit of laying birds, and quickly increase the weight of birds for the table and is protective against disease.
Rs. 1-0 per 20-lb. bag.

4. 'Nutrient'—A fattening, conditioning fodder adjunct of distinction, and unequalled, value for maintaining condition. Horses and Cattle will fatten on it in a few days.
Rs. 3-0 per tin with full directions.

R. S. HART BROS.,
CALCUTTA.

ORDERS FOR

NEW YEAR CAKES

NOW REGISTERED AT

MONGINI BROTHERS,

25—27, CHURCH GATE STREET, FORT, BOMBAY.

N.B.—ALL OUR CAKES WILL THIS YEAR BEAR OUR STAMP.

MONGINI BROTHERS,
BOMBAY.

THOS. COOK AND SON,

BANKERS AND AGETNS,
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, RANGOON, COLOMBO.

PASSAGES engaged by all Lines of Steamers.
INTERPRETERS at all Principal Ports.
HOTEL COUPONS available at 2000 Hotels.
CURRENT and DEPOSIT Accounts opened.
CIRCULAR NOTES and L/CREDIT issued and cashed.
PACKAGES Shipped to and from all parts.
INSURANCE, Fire, Life and Marine effected.
"COOK'S ORIENTAL GAZETTE" containing Sailling Dates of all Steamers and every other information for Travellers, sent Post Free.

THE NEW "REVLUC PINCE-NEZ.

DURING the Hot Steamy Weather when your Glasses persist in falling off your nose, a pair of "REVLUC" FRAME fitted to your own lense, will be found a great boon.

They are self adjusting
There is nothing to break
They are always Horizontal
They are the acme of comfort and very strong
No slipping off the Nose.

Prices of Frames only, inclusive of fitting:—
Nickel Rs. 3-8. Gold Rs. 35.

MARCKS & CO., LD.,
BOMBAY AND POONA.

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THOSE SUBSCRIBERS who have been hitherto SUPPLIED with the "BOMBAY GAZETTE" through the Cosmopolitan Library, can have the paper by applying to Messrs. VINCENT & CO., 19, Hornby Road, 3rd Floor, Fort, or the "BOMBAY GAZETTE," Head Office.

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THE NOTED HOUSE FOR

SOUVENIRS for Races Run.
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SPORTING DESIGNS in Scarf Pins.
SPORTING DESIGNS in Sleeve Links.
SPORTING DESIGNS in Brooches,
SPORTING DESIGNS in Bracelets.
SPORTING DESIGNS in Pen and Pencil Cases.
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BINOCULARS.— "THE VELDT" is the Cheapest Perfect Binocular for the Field. Appearances absolutely subordinated to power. Rs. 26.

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WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
BOMBAY AND POONA.

McDOWELL & CO., LD.,

MADRAS & LONDON.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS

BAHADUR CIGARS.

FRIENDS AT HOME SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN

AT XMAS TIME

WHAT MORE WELCOME PRESENT COULD BE THOUGHT OF THAN A HAMPER OF REALLY

CHOICE CIGARS!

SUCH AS THE FAVOURITE

"BAHADUR."

PRICES:

Delivered Free of all Charges at any given address in the United Kingdom.

LIGHT OF ASIA	I	...	...	... Rs. 16	8 per 100
" " "	II	...	...	... " 13	2 " "
" " "	III	...	...	... " 11	10 " "
BAHADUR Havanah & Special Shape	I	...	...	... " 17	10 " "
" "	II	...	...	... " 13	2 " "
" "	III	...	...	... " 10	11 " "
BOUQUETS	I	...	...	... " 17	7 " "
"	II	...	...	... " 13	8 " "
"	III	...	...	... " 11	14 " "
QUEEN EMPRESS	I	..	...	.. " 16	8 " "
" "	II	...	...	... " 13	2 " "
" "	III	...	...	... " 11	10 " "

A TREAT FOR YOURSELF AT XMAS!

BAHADUR HAVANAS.

"COMPOSIA,"	Imperatrix...Rs.	22/8	per 100,	in 25's
"	Especiales... "	17/-	" "	in 50's & 25's
"MULETA,"	Principes ... "	19/12	" "	in 50's & 25's
"	Graciosos ... "	13/8-	" "	in 50's & 25's

LIGHT OF ASIA'S

From Rs. 3/ to 2/8 per box of 50's.

BAHADUR BOUQUETS

From Rs. 2/8 to 2/2 per box of 50's.

Samples in any quantity of the above charged for at these prices and sent POST FREE to any address in India.

THE ITALIAN STORES.

C. COLONNELLO, SON & CO.

STEVEDORES AND PURVEYORS TO THE NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA SOCIETA REUNITE FLORIO AND RUBATTINO, BOMBAY, AND THE ITALIAN ROYAL MARINE, RUSSIAN AND ARGENTINE MEN-O'-WARS.

105, MEDOWS STREET, FORT, BOMBAY.

GRUYERE, PARMESAN and GORGONZOLA CHEESES
FINEST LUCCA OIL, PURE ITALIAN WINE VINEGAR.

MILAN SAUSAGES in Skin (Italian). Anchovies Salted (loose). Black and Green Olives (loose). All kind of French, Italian, and German Stores.

Largest Importers of Fresh MACARONI, VERMICELLI AND SOUP PASTES assorted Fresh consignments arriving here every month. Special Reduction in Prices for the Season only. MACARONI, at 5 ans. lb. and VERMICELLI and SOUP PASTE, ans. 6 lb, or a box holding 10 lbs. nett at Rs. 3.

LENTILLES, Beans small and double, Rice (Carolina), WALNUTS, ALMONDS, HAZELNUTS, and CHESTNUTS, Muscatel Raisins, Naples Figs, Italian Lemons and Oranges, and fresh Grapes.

MASTIC de CHIO, VERMOUTH (Italian and French), CHIANTI, BARBERA, CAPRI LACRIMA CHRISTI, and MARSALA, CHERRY and BLACKBERRY BRANDY.

Attention is drawn to our celebrated GRIGNOLINO CLARET as a Speciality and a thoroughly Genuine article,—Only Rs. 10 per Doz. Bots

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS.

NOVELTY THEATRE.

RETURN VISIT OF THE
HENRY DALLAS'
MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY.
2 NIGHTS ONLY 2

TO-NIGHT,
THURSDAY, 31ST DECEMBER,
"THE MESSENGER BOY."

FRIDAY, 1ST JANUARY, 1904,
New and Revised Production of
"GENTLEMAN JOE."
Mr. PERCIVAL KNIGHT as "Gent'eman Joe"

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Orchestra Stalls	Rs. 4
Dress Circle	„ 3
Pit Chairs	„ 2
Gallery	„ 1

Plan of Seats at SOUNDY & CO.

THE GRAND INDIAN CIRCUS AND ROYAL MENAGERIE.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
AN ENTIRE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME,
OUR GREATEST VICTORY.
TENT PACKED EVERYWHERE.
The Show that Never Broke a Promise.
WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR WORD.

Pony Jack dancing Polka to the tune of Music. Double Trapeze, by the flying traveller PANDURANG and the ladder balance, SHUNKER, the grotesque trick-rider. The DECCAN COUPLE or "pushing him back" by Nagar Horses, etc., etc.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!!
AT THE
ESPLANADE, oppo. Elphinstone H. School.
FAMILY MATINEE,
ON SATURDAY, THE 2ND PROXIMO, AT 4 P.M.

SUNDRI, THE LARGEST PERFORMING ELEPHANT, introduced in the arena by Prof. MORE.

The docility of Pony Bichwa while the massive animal passes her huge legs over it, and a hoard of other amusements. The DARING ACT of Familiarity with the Panther.

Daring Wrestling with the ROYAL BENGAL TIGER in the Arena by a well-known Gymnast AND A VARIETY of ACROBATIC AND ATHLETIC FEATS.

POPULAR PRICES:—Rs. 4, 3, 2, 1, and As. 8.
SEATS RESERVED AT SOUNDY & Co., Fort.

NOTICE.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ON and after the 1st proximo, the BRANCH OFFICES of the above Company will be REMOVED from the "Old Secretariat" Apollo Street to "ROYAL INSURANCE BUILDINGS," Nos 42-8 Church Gate Street, Fort.

C. M. ROSS,
Res. Secretary.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

THE BANK will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 31st instant, and 1st and 2nd proximo, those days being PUBLIC HOLIDAYS under the "Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881."

J. BEGBIE,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Bombay, 23rd December, 1903.

THE SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

ON and after the 1st January, 1904, the MAIL and MIXED TRAINS between POONA, BANGALORE and MYSORE via HUBLI and HARIHAR WILL RUN as under:—

READ FROM TOP. Mixed.	Mail.	STATIONS.	Mail.	READ FROM BOTTOM. Mixed.
H. M.	H. M.		H. M.	H. M.
7 20	19 15	D POONA ..... A	6 0	15 70
2 55	9 29	A BELGAUM ..... D	15 44	22 35
10 30	9 39	D A	15 31	22 18
18 15	14 57	A D	10 0	15 0
18 45	15 12	D HUBLI ..... A	9 49	14 10
1 0	19 26	A D	4 53	6 50
1 20	19 50	D HARIHAR ..... A	4 44	2 35
18 20	7 30	A BANGALORE ..... D	17 0	8 20
12 40	8 10	D A	16 30	5 15
6 0	14 20	A MYSORE ..... D	10 30	21 30

For further particulars, see Sheet Time Tables exhibited at Stations.

W. B. WRIGHT,
Traffic Manager.

Dharwar, 22nd December, 1903.

OUR COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN Physical Culture will positively cure you of Obesity, Indigestion, Biliiness, Loss of Appetite, Loss of Vitality, etc.

For particulars write to
THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF SCIENCE and PHYSICAL CULTURE,
2, Broadway, MADRAS.

BANK OF BOMBAY
SAVINGS BANK.

THE BANK receives DEPOSITS on the following terms:—

Sums not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in the aggregate may be deposited within any one year from 1st January to 31st December.

Deposits may be made in the names of two or more persons and the balance made payable to one or more of them or to the survivor or survivors.

Interest is allowed at the rate of THREE PER CENT. per annum on the minimum monthly balance not exceeding Rs. 5,000.

Copies of the Rules can be obtained on application at the Bank.

J. BEGBIE,
Secretary and Treasurer.

NEW TEAS. NEW TEAS.

TRY THE
MAY BLOSSOM.
THE
MAY BLOSSOM
TEAS

Are the Best in the Market, having been picked and blended by an Expert.

A CHOICE CUP OF TEA.
BE PUT OFF WITH NO OTHER,
SOLD EVERYWHERE.
Apply early to
CROFT, MODY & Co.,
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WHEN you have read it, show it to your friends. Notice the "UP-TO-DATE Shorthand" challenge to M. B. on page 5. Yet Mr. M. B. says he challenged Mr. Warwick Peele. The facts are Mr. Warwick Peele challenged M. B. and also his Pupils. M. B's so called challenge came MUCH later, and was a prevarication throughout, as on page 6—19th line. Our Pupils do 120 words a minute on LESSON MATTER, as every one knows; yet M. B. twists it to NEW MATTER. Pitmanites could not do 20 words a minute on their 11th lesson, nor the 111th lesson at 120 words.

IT is an old, old, and tiresome study, and 'tis a wicked injustice to put a boy or girl to it, when the "UP-TO-DATE SHORTHAND" is in India. There is as much difference between M. B. and his teaching, and Mr. Warwick Peeles, as "Electricity is to a Candle."

LOOK at page 10 for a cowardly stab, announcing the sale of furniture as "the beginning of the end." The facts are:—when Mr. Warwick Peel commenced opening out Studies throughout India, he did not require a private house any longer, hence the sale. He paid cash for it, and sold for cash, M.B. would find it an equally difficult task to buy such a house of good furniture, as to meet Warwick Peele for shorthand speed or find Pupils who can match his 6 months against our 3 weeks' teaching.

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ILLUSTRATIVE TABLE

SHOWING THE ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYABLE FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF POLICIES WITH PROFITS.

Age next Birthday.	Whole Life Assurances of Rs. 1,000. Whole Life Premiums.	Premiums Limited to 10 years.	15 years.	20 years.	Endowment Assurances of Rs. 1,000. Payable at death, or in 15 years.	20 years.	25 years.	Age next Birthday
	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	
20	21 10	48 8	36 6	30 7	64 5	47 6	37 11	20
21	22 1	49 4	36 14	30 15	64 6	47 8	37 13	21
22	22 9	50 0	37 7	31 7	64 8	47 10	37 15	22
23	23 1	50 12	38 0	31 15	64 9	47 12	38 1	23
24	23 9	51 8	38 10	32 7	64 11	47 14	38 4	24
25	24 2	52 5	39 4	33 0	64 13	48 0	38 7	25
26	24 11	53 2	39 15	33 9	64 15	48 8	38 10	26
27	25 5	54 0	40 10	34 2	65 1	48 6	38 14	27
28	25 15	54 14	41 5	34 12	65 4	48 9	39 2	28
29	26 9	55 13	42 1	35 6	65 7	48 12	39 6	29
30	27 4	56 13	42 13	36 0	65 10	49 0	39 11	30
31	27 15	57 13	43 10	36 11	65 13	49 4	40 0	31
32	28 11	58 14	44 7	37 6	66 0	49 8	40 6	32
33	29 8	59 15	45 4	38 2	66 4	49 13	40 12	33
34	30 6	61 1	46 2	38 15	66 8	50 2	41 3	34
35	31 5	62 4	47 1	39 12	66 13	50 8	41 10	35
36	32 5	63 8	48 0	40 10	67 2	50 14	42 2	36
37	33 5	64 12	49 0	41 9	67 8	51 5	42 11	37
38	34 6	66 1	50 1	42 5	67 14	51 13	43 5	38
39	35 8	67 6	51 3	43 8	68 4	52 5	43 15	39
40	36 11	68 12	52 5	44 9	68 11	52 14	44 10	40
41	38 0	70 3	53 8	45 11	69 3	53 8	45 6	41
42	39 6	71 11	54 12	46 14	69 12	54 3	46 4	42
43	40 13	73 4	56 1	48 2	70 6	55 0	47 3	43
44	42 5	74 13	57 6	49 7	71 0	55 14	48 4	44
45	43 14	76 7	58 12	50 13	71 11	56 13	49 6	45

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THERE was a large gathering at C. Ardeshir's to witness the prize drawing under a special committee. Mr. Ardeshir said he was gratified at seeing so large an attendance, thanked the public for their past support, and hoped for future continuance. He also said the object of giving prizes was to further extend the popularity of English manufactured goods in India which were sold at lower prices than elsewhere. The goods were admitted to be superior, serviceable and moderate. Further reduction will be made in value and the lower prizes will be increased from 4 to 5. He hoped the public would appreciate and patronize the goods. Mr. Ardeshir regretted the postponement of the drawing of the 15th November, which was due to the late arrival of goods. He offered an apology to the audience who cheered his remarks. A good many of the prizes were drawn in Calcutta and the remaining prizes fell all over India. The local prizes were paid promptly and the gathering dispersed after refreshment. The public were given liberty to see their own numbers. The first prize of Rs.1,000 fell to Ticket No. 1439, held by a Bengali Girl, Srimati Toolsi Dassi, 72, Shamnagar Road, Dun Dum. The second prize, a pretty gold watch, fell to No.3182, held by O.C. Dover, 3, Marquis Street, Calcutta. The third, No. 9112, fell to Joharhossein Gangu, Khoka Bazar, Bombay. One of the spectators, an Englishman, won a gold watch. The audience dispersed highly pleased.

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MR. D. YULE, Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co.
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„ NORMAN McLEOD, Messrs. McLeod & Co.
„ D. KING.
„ J. C. SPEIRS.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.
MR. D. KING.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the following terms:—

2½ per annum allowed on daily balances
or
2¼ „ „ minimum monthly balances
at the option of Depositors to be declared when opening accounts.

FIXED DEPOSITS received at the following rates of interest:—

	Per Annum.
For 2 Years...	... 5 per cent.
„ 1 Year	... 4½ „
„ 6 Months	... 4 „
„ 3 „	... 3 „

The Bank offers special facilities and advice to Constituents as to the purchase and sale of all Indian Securities, particularly the Shares and Debenture Stocks of Jute, Cotton, Tea, and Miscellaneous Industrial Concerns.

The Bank is prepared to guarantee the principal and interest of Debentures on its approved list, on terms which may be ascertained on application. Absentee shareholders' and investors' interests carefully watched.

Orders executed on the London Stock Exchange through London Branch.

For further information, apply to—

J. C. SPEIRS,
Agent.
Calcutta, 30th September, 1903.
LONDON BRANCH:
GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, E.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid up Capital	$ 10,000,000
Sterling Reserve Fund	$ 10,000,000
Silver Reserve Fund	$ 6,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	$ 10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG:

J. R. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.
London Bankers.—LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LD.

LONDON COMMITTEE.
SIR THOS. JACKSON, Bart., Chairman.
WM. ANASTASIUS JONES, Es

INSURANCES.

THE DEMAND FOR

STANDARD POLICIES.

EVERY YEAR since 1865 the NEW BUSINESS has exceeded £1,000,000 sums assured PER ANNUM—a result maintained uninterruptedly for 90 long a period by

NO OTHER BRITISH OFFICE.

NEW POLICIES IN 1902
ISSUED FOR..... £2,337,000
ACCUMULATED FUNDS.....£10,640,000
ASSURANCES IN FORCE.....£27,000,000

ASK FOR THE 1903 PROSPECTUS containing the LATEST RATES and NEW SCHEMES, obtainable from

F. A. PREVOST,
Secretary, Bombay Branch.

BINNY & Co.,
Chief Agents, Madras.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE Co.
ESTABLISHED 1809.

CHIEF OFFICES:
EDINBURGH, 64, Princes Street.
LONDON, 61, Threadneedle Street.

Total Funds as at 31st December,
1902..... £ 16,378,771
Revenue for 1902 ..... £ 3,628,617

The sum of £ 830,160 was divided among Participating Life Policy-holders in 1900 yielding a BONUS at the Rate of £ 1-8-0 per cent. per annum not only on the original sums assured but also on all subsisting Bonuses.

POLICIES in some cases have been MORE THAN DOUBLED in amount by the addition of BONUSES.

NEW PROSPECTUS JUST OUT.
GREAT REDUCTIONS
under all SYSTEMS,
For Prospectuses and Proposal Forms apply to
Messrs. KING, KING & Co.,
Agents and Secretaries,
NORTH BRITISH and MERCANTILE INSURANCE Co.,
Standard Buildings, Bombay.

THE
ORIENTAL
GOVERNMENT SECURITY
LIFE ASSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.
Established 1874.
FUNDS EXCEED TWO
CRORES and TEN LAKHS
INVESTED IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Rates are the lowest with safety, being based upon the Company's actual experience since its Establishment.

Unsurpassed in ADVANTAGES, and LIBERALITY to POLICYHOLDERS.

Safest and Best Organization for Policyholders of any Indian Company.

Claims paid immediately upon receipt of satisfactory proof.

ENDOWMENTS AND ANNUITIES ON SPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE TERMS.

Full Particulars and Forms may be obtained on application to the Company's Office, ORIENTAL BUILDINGS, BOMBAY.

R. PATERSON BROWN,
Manager.

THE GRESHAM LIFE OFFICE.

Assets..... Rs. 12,00,00,000.
Annual Income..... Rs. 2,00,00,000.
Limited Premium Assurance with 50 per cent. Guaranteed Bonus.

TABLE I. T. L. N.

A person aged 25 next birthday, by payment of an Annual Premium of Rs. 431 4s., for 30 years, or till his previous death, may secure a policy for Rs. 10,000 under this table, entitling him to the following benefits:—

(1) Should death occur during the 30-year term, Return of one-third of the total amount of the Premiums paid, in addition to the face value of the Policy. Thus, if the claim arises in the

1st yr.	5th yr.	10th yr.	15th yr.	20th yr.	25th yr.	30th yr.
10,143	10,718	11,427	12,156	12,875	13,593	14,312

(2) Should the Assured survive the 30-year term
(a) An Immediate Payment in cash of Rs. 5,000.
(b) A free paid-up Policy, payable at his death, for Rs. 10,000;
(c) Participation in the Capitalised Profits which will have accumulated during the period of 30 years.
(d) Participation in Profits at each of the subsequent Quinquennial Bonus Distributions.

For further information address:—
Messrs. CROFT, MODY & Co.,
Chief Agents for India, Burma and Ceylon, Bombay

NOTES.
INDIAN LAND REVENUE,
FOR PRINCIPLE AND SOUND POLICY
BY
TODARMAL,
Price Re. 1, Postage half-anna
To be had at the "Bombay Gazette" Bombay

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

LONDON, DECEMBER 29.

SECURITIES—

2½ per cent. Consols	£88 1-16	=	+ 1-16
3 do. Rentes	97 1-2	=	unchanged
3½ do. Indian Sterling Loan	£103 1-2	=	do
3½ per cent. Indian Enfaced Rupee Paper	£74 7-8	=	— 1-4

SILVER—

Spot in London	25 15-16	=	unchanged
2 months hence	25 9-15	=	+ 1-16
Spot in New York	55 7-8	=	unchanged

EXCHANGES—

Paris cheques	25·16	=	do
Berlin "	20·42 1-2	=	— 1
New York Demand	483 3-4	=	1-4

DISCOUNTS—

Bank of England	4	pr ct	= unchanged
3 months' sight Bank Bills	3 1-2	pr ct	= do
6 " " "	3 1-2	pr ct	= unchanged
3 " " Fine Trade Bills	4	pr ct	= do
6 months sight Fine Trade Bills	4 1-8	pr ct	= do

INTEREST—

Day to day loans	3 3-4	pr ct	= do
7 day market loans	4	pr ct	= do

Extra Council Bills allotments Transfer on Bombay Rs. 100,000 at 1s 4 5-32d.
Extra Council Bills allotments Transfer on Calcutta Rs 2,00,000 at 1s 4 5-32d.

SUGAR—
German Granulated 1st marks N.-D. 10 1-2 = + 1-3. Tone firm.

METALS—
Copper Braziers £68-10 = + 10s
Yellow Metal 6 1-3d. unchanged.
Tin Plates 11d. unchanged.
Bar Iron Belgian £4-17-6 unchanged.
Iron Corrugated Sheets £10-7-3 unchange.
Basic Steel Bars £5-5-0 unchanged.

WHEAT—
White Karachi D.-J. Sellers 29s. = + 1s

LINSEED—
Linseed Bold. A.-M. sellers 35s. = + 3d. Tone steady

COFFEE—
Coffee in New York 7 3-16. unchanged

In Liverpool—Cotton Market closed easier. Surats dull. Manchester strong. Total Sales, 3,000. Spot 7·50. Egyptian fair brown 9 1-8 unchanged. Sold on speculation and for Export 300. Imports 34,000. Arrivals closed easier.

Dec-Jan.	Jan.-Feb.	Feb.-Mar.	Mar.-April
7·28	7·28	7·27	7·27
—1	+1	+1	+2

April-May.	May-June.	June-July
7·26	7·26	7·25
+1	+2	+3

July-Aug. 7·24 +1

In New York—

Receipts at the Port			60,000
Do. last year			55,000
Exports to Great Britain			11,000
Do. do Continent			14,000
Mid-Uplands			13·71 — 10
Futures, month of Dec.			13·28 — 53
Do. do. March			13·67 — 48

In New Orleans—

Spot			13 5-8 unchanged.
Futures, month of March			13·30 — 49
Do. do. June			14·27 — 54
Tone at close			Dopr sed by forced sales.

Arrivals of Cotton, Wheat and Seeds into Bombay, for the 24 hours ending at 6 p. m., on Tuesday, 29th December, 1903:—

Cotton	14,672 bales.
Wheat	36,596 cwts.
Linseed	13,656 "
Rape, Rai and Mustard seeds	5,719 "
Gingellyseed	65,183 "
Poppyseed	2,390 "
Groundnuts	1,107 "
Castorseed	5,478 "
Rice	0,518 "
Myrabolams	12,618 "
Cottonseed	23,515 "

BOMBAY, DECEMBER 30.

EXCHANGE—Tone firm.

Bank T.T.				1s. 4 1-8d.
Bank Demand				1s. 4 5-32d.
Credit Bills 3 Months Sight			D. A.	1s. 4 3-8d.
Do	6	do	do	1s. 4 1-2d.
Francs	8	do	do	171 1-2
Marks	3	do	do	139 1-2
Hongkong	30	Days' Sight		125
Shanghai	30	do	do	175
Japan	30	do	do	148

Government Paper—Tone unsettled.

Cash	Rs.	96·0
1st Settlement	"	96·0
2nd do	"	96·4

BANK RATE

Bank of England	since 3rd Sept.	4	per cent
Bank of Bombay	do. 20th Dec.	5	do.
Bank of Bengal	do. 23rd Dec.	5	do.
Bank of Madras	do. 23rd Dec.	5	do.

SEEDS—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Linseed.—Tone quiet.			
Ready	5	15	0
Rapeseed.—Tone quiet,			
Brown Cawnpore, Ready.	5	11	0
Yellow Cawnpore, Ready,	6	0	0
Yellow Guzerat, Ready.,	6	0	0
Poppyseed.—Tone quiet.			
Ready	6	3	6
Castorseed—Tone quiet.			
Ready	21	4	0
Gingellyseed.—Tone quiet.			
Howree Khandeish ...	33	0	0
15 per cent. Mixed ...	32	8	0
25 per cent. " ...	31	12	0
50 per cent. " ...	30	8	0
Black Kutnee " ...	26	8	0
WHEAT.—Tone steady.			
Pissi 91 per cent.	Rs.	29	8
Club No. 1	"	29	
Hard Red	"	22	8

LIVERPOOL OPENING TELEGRAM.

Tone easier.
Estimated sales ..... 4,000 bales
Imports ..... 38,000 "

Dec.-Jan.	Jan.-Feb.	Feb.-Mar.	Mar.-Apl.
7·13	7·13	7·12	7·11
—15	—15	—15	—16

Apl-May	May-June	June-July.
7·11	7·11	7·10
—15	—15	—15

July-Aug.	Aug.-Sept.
7·09	6·95
—15	

COTTON.—Owing to the drop in the American markets reported this morning, the market opened easier, and prices were quoted Rs. 2 to 3 lower. There was little enquiry from exporters and only a small business was done during the day, the demand being chiefly for M. G. Bengals for January delivery.

In ready cotton a moderate business has been done at slightly lower prices.

The following are the official quotations of the Bombay Cotton Trade Association, Limited:—

	Fine	F.-G.	Gd.	Delivery
Bengal (H.-G.) (Ry. terms)	232	221	...	December
Bengal (M.-G.) (Ry. terms)	234	222	...	
Sind-Punjab (M.-G.)	...	234	222	...
Belati (M.-G.) descriptions	260	254	...	
Khandeish (M.-G.)	...	...	237	231
Jalgaum do.	...	...	239	233
Khamgaum do. ...	231	225	...	...
Karanja do. ...				
Khandwa do. ...	...	257	251	...
Damangaum Poolgaum (MG)	264	258	...	
Nagpur (M.-G.)	...	266	260	...
Oomras good staple (M.G.)	268	262	...	
Broach do.	...	280	...	260 25 March
" "	...	278	...	... 25 April
Bhownugger do.	...	258	248	... 25 May.
Do. (H.-G)	...	256	243	... "
Mathia (M. G.) ...	...	242	232	... 25 March
S.-O. Dharwar ...	...	...	...	254 25 May.
Westorns ...	...	...	...	244 "

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed	easier.
Surats	dull.
Good Brownuggar	...
The Manchester Market has been	strong.
2 1-2 per cent Consols	88 1-16
3 per cent Rentes	97 1-2
3 1-2 per cent Sterling Loan	103 1-2
3 1-2 per cent Rupee Papers	64 7-8
Bar Silver	25 15-16

HOME REMITTANCES.

THE following is the weekly memorandum of Remittances to the Home Treasury by means of Council Bills:—

		£
1.	Amount to be remitted during 1903-04	17,000,000
2.	Remitted from 1st April 1903 to 5th December 1903, by Council Bills	13,139,564
	By Gold	....
3.	Balance to be remitted from 6th December 1903 to 31st March 1904	3,860,436

ADVICE TO MOTHERS!—Are you broken in your rest, by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain and the little cherub awakes as "bright as a button." It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

THE Charge for Announcements of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES DEATHS and MEMORIUM Notices (which must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender) is Re 2, for six lines or less, and 3 as. for every additional line CASH strictly in ADVANCE.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

GIRLING—December 21, at 68 Cantonments, Cawnpore, the wife of G Hudson Girling, S and T Corps, of a daughter.

ROWLAND—December 18, at Almorah, Kumaon, the wife of A Rowland D P W, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

COVENTRY—DUNSFORD—December 2, at St James' Church, Delhi, Walter Alfred Coventry, Punjab Police, son of E Coventry, of Holmleigh, Wandsworth Common, Surrey, to Florence Elizabeth Kennedy (Queenie), eldest daughter of H S Dunsford, Punjab Police, Delhi.

IMRIE—BERRIFF—December 25, at the Church of Scotland, Bombay, by the Rev J Cameron, William Imrie, of Lahore, to Jessie Mary Berriff, of Canterbury, Kent.

DEATH.

MEIKLEJOHN—December 25, at Bangalore, of appendicitis, George Forbes Meiklejohn, Judge of the Chief Court of Mysore (late Commissioner of Coor,), aged 5?.

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 32m. Sun sets, 5h. 33m. High water, 8·20m. 9·54a. Low water, 2·46m. 2·57a.
Banks closed: Christmas Holidays.
Mahomedan Educational Conference, Shamianah, Esplanade.
Evening Party by Mr. Justice Badroodin Tyabjee, Warden Road Branch Canty, 9 p.m.
Annual Police Ball, Town Hall, 9 p.m.
B. V. Artillery Club Annual Dance, 9 p.m.
Novelty Theatre, Mr. Henry Dallas's Comedy Company.
Indian Circus, Esplanade, 9 p.m.
Cricket, Indian Team Test Match.

POSTAL NOTICE.—A mail for Aden, Egypt and Europe, consisting of letters and packets specially marked for transmission per Austrian Lloyd's s.s. Imperatrix will be made up at the Bombay General Post Office, for despatch to destination at 3 p.m., today.

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A SERVANT.—Dr. F. D. Nanavati who has his dispensary on Sleater Road, has reported to the police that a servant of his absconded on Monday afternoon taking with him Rs. 218 in currency notes and cash. A search is being made for the man.

A CARRIAGE ACCIDENT.—Raji Saley Mahomed, a Mahomedan boy, aged eight years, while crossing Grant Road, on Tuesday afternoon, was accidentally knocked down by a victoria and one of the wheels passing over him caused serious injuries. He was removed to the J. J. Hospital, where he has been detained for treatment.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL SERVICE MISSION.—A series of special services for children and young people will be conducted in the Y. M. C. A. Hall during the coming week. The services, which will be conducted by Mr. R. T. Archibald, B.A., of St. John's College, Oxford, will commence on Monday next, and will be continued until the 8th proximo. A brief and attractive meeting is promised.

A PICK POCKET.—Before Mr. P. H. Dastur, at the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Inspector Morris charged Mahomed Hyder, a Mahomedan lad with stealing two pairs of gold Mangles, of the value of Rs. 150, the property of one Passoomal Heuchand, a Marwari. The evidence showed that the complainant was making purchases from a shop near Jumma Musjid on Tuesday, when the accused came from behind and picked his pocket of a bundle containing the ornaments. He was arrested on the spot. He was ordered to receive thirty stripes.

A PRODIGAL SON.—At the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital yesterday, Mr. Byrne, Coroner for Bombay, conducted an inquest relative to the death of Kaboo Weljii, a young Hindu, aged eighteen years, residing with his father in De Souza Street. The father in his evidence stated that the deceased was a spendthrift; obtained money on credit and squandered it away. About a week ago he opened his father's box and stole five rupees from it. He was severely scolded for this and warned that if he repeated the offence he would be given in police custody. On Monday evening he again asked for money. This was refused and he retired to rest, sullen and cross. The next morning he was found unconscious in his bed. He was conveyed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from opium-poisoning. He died subsequently. The jury returned a verdict of suicide.

A CASE FOR THE SESSIONS.—At the Mazagon Police Court yesterday, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Second Presidency Magistrate, Sub-Inspector Pshigara of the Criminal Investigation Department, charged Balkrishna Rugunath, Kondia Joti, Sonia Gunnoo and two other Hindus, with house-breaking and theft of gold and silver ornaments of the value of Rs. 342, the property of one Navla Jetha, a Marwari. The evidence showed that on the night of the 23rd October last the accused broke into the complainant's house in Malanpoora by removing bars of a window at the rear of the building and carried off the property. They were arrested by the police on the 9th instant. The first and second accused were old offenders, having a record of fourteen and twelve previous convictions respectively against them. The third accused was discharged for want of sufficient evidence. The rest of the accused were committed to take their trial at the next Criminal Sessions of the Bombay High Court.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The annual report of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, states that during the half year ended September 30th the gross profits of the Company for the past half year amount to Yen 3,917,240·91; out of which there has been paid: Depreciation of the Company's fleet and property Yen 720,448·30; Insurance Fund Yen 174,374·090 Ships' Structural Repair Fund Yen 432,957·300 (total Yen 1,327,780·370) leaving a balance of Yen 3,322,771·815, including Yen 733,291·275 brought forward from the last account, the directors now propose that Yen 129,474·030 be added to the reserve fund raising it to Yen 1,914,053,753; Yen 800,000·000 to the fund for the extension of services and improvement of the fleet, bringing that amount to Yen 3,500,000·000; and that Yen 471,358·110 be allowed as director's and auditors. From the remainder the directors recommend dividend at the rate of ten per cent., together with two per cent. as special dividend, thus making twelve per cent. per annum which will absorb Yen 1,320,000·000; The Balance, Yen 1,001,930·075, will be carried forward to the next Account.

ROYAL BOMBAY YACHT CLUB.

THE following races will take place on Saturday next the 2nd January under the auspices of the Club.

"A" Class course No. 13 to start at 3-15 p.m.
"B" Class course No. 12 to start at 3 p.m.
Tomtit Class course No. 12 to start 2-45 p.m.
Ship Boats fancy rig to start at 2-30 p.m. Course No. 3 Reversed namely, From Committee Vessel round Sunck Rock, round South Karanja Bay leaving both to port and thence to Committee Vessel leaving it to starboard.
Entries close with the Hon. Sec. Sailing Committee at noon on Friday the 1st January.

BOMBAY RACES.

THIRD EXTRA MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY 2.

HANDICAPS.

The Desert Plate—Furlong.—Young Kohinoor 9·7, Governor 9 6, Shaibool 9·5 Tigris 9 4, Lottie Joker 9 3 White Fox 9 1, Napoleon late the Robber 9 13, Malabar 8 11, Nainava 8 9, Rocket 8 8, Grey Fox 8 7, Kour Sahib 8 5, Turn of Luck 8 3, Winchester 8 0, Bukhtawar 7 12, Sweetlips 7 11, Firdosi 7 6, Kyam 7 0.

The Sydney Plate.—6 furlongs.—Russley Rose 9 12, Comeback 9 7, Mia 9 5, Indabha 9 4, Picture 8 11, Chieftain 8 8, Key West 8 3, Wink 7 6, Annie Laurie 7 1, Alma 6 12, Easter 6 10.

Top weight not accepting weights to be raised 5 lbs.

CECIL GRAY, Secretary W. I. T. C.
Byculla 30th December, 1903.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it "will positively restore in every case grey or white hair" to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemists for "The Mexican Hair Renewer" sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere." Wholesale Depot, 23, Farringdon Road, London, England

CRICKET IN BOMBAY.

THE INDIAN TEAM TEST MATCH.

Two very strong sides were got together for the Test Match in connection with the Indian cricket team for England which commenced on the Gymkhana ground yesterday. There were, however, several prominent local players who from various causes were prevented from participating in the match. R. P. Meherhomji who received an invitation is suffering from a bad wrist; Raja senior was unable to get away for the match; Mehta declined to play; Daruwalla is away up-country; Banda was feeling indisposed; Bulsara is also on the sick list; and K. B. Mistri, the Ajmere player, refused the invitation. In addition to these Shafkat Housain, the Aligarh fast bowler, to the disappointment of every body was unable to don flannels owing to an attack of fever. Despite these prominent absentees the two sides that eventually took the field were strong in all departments of the game and on paper at least pretty evenly balanced. Dr. Pavri and Mr. Ahsan-ul-Hak captained the teams which were as follows:—

Dr. Pavri's XI	Mr. Ahsan-ul-Hak's XI
Mr H D Kanga	Mr Masurker
Mr Razzak	Mr Sanjana
Mr Abid Housain	Mr Syed Mahomed
Mr D L de Saram	Mr Masood
Mr R E Mody	Mr Ali Hasan
Mr Bhandare	Mr Bilgoo
Mr C V Mehta	Mr Mane kshand
Mr Salegram	Mr Dale
Mr Phagoo Ram	Mr Nanak Ram
Mr Tamboowalla	Mr Ahsan-ul-Hak
Dr M E Pavri	

Dr. Pavri won the toss and took first service of the excellent wicket which had been prepared. The first four batsmen all did well, but afterwards there was a collapse. R. E. Mody who went in on the fall of the third wicket being unable to get any one to remain in with him for long. The feature of the innings was Razzak's 66 who made his runs by sound cricket, hardly making a faulty stroke during the hour and a quarter he was batting. Following as it did his fine displays against the Parees Gymkhana and the Hindus his innings created a very favourable impression among the critics and there can be no doubt that he has all the makings of a first class bat in him. Next in point of worth was De Saram's sinnings. The left-hander did not make many runs his score being 30, but he batted in a style that quite confirmed the good opinion that we expressed of his batting in a previous notice. Some of his off strokes were very fine indeed. Barring K. M. Mistri we have certainly not seen a better left-hand bat in Bombay. Many good judges who witnessed his display are of opinion that he runs the famous Parsee bat very close and we are confident that with a little good coaching he would train on into a first-class player. Abid Housain who made 41 can hardly be said to have played a good game. He gave at least two chances and was beaten several times by Baloo and Maneckchand. We believe that nervousness had a good deal to do with some of the poor strokes he made. H. D. Kanga played a cricketer's innings for 21, in compiling which he brought off several good strokes. He was bowled by a fast shooter from Maneckchand which kept very low. With the exception of R. E. Mody who was not out 13 none of the other batsmen shaped at all well, four men failing to score. Of the bowlers Maneckchand, Baloo, and Masood did best. The first-named is a fast right hand bowler and on a wicket that bumped at all could be very deadly. He is a member of the Peshawar team which is at present in Bombay. His four wickets for 43 runs was a very good performance on such a good wicket. Baloo showed all his old trickiness and obtained three wickets for 39 runs. He is rapidly regaining his form with the ball and with a little more practice will be as good as ever. Ali Hasan bowled eleven overs but had no luck. He beat the batsmen time after time but failed to hit the sticks and had two catches missed off his bowling. Masood who came on towards the end of the innings secured two wickets for 6 runs and is a most useful bowler. Nanak Ram only bowled five overs and kept the runs down. The innings closed for 198, a much smaller total than at one time seemed probable. Mr. Ahsan-ul-Hak's team made a disastrous start from which they never recovered losing the first two wickets for one run and a third with the total 15. The only batsman on the side who shaped at all well was Syed Mahomed who made 24 out of the total of 44 from the bat. Masood was playing well when he was dismissed to a good catch at short leg. Shivlal made 10 but was never confortable and Ahsan-ul-Hak who went in far too late could get nobody to stop with him. For the cheap dismissal of Ahsan-ul-Hak's team bad umpiring was a measure responsible as Syed Mahomed Ali Hasan and Date were all out to extremely doubtful l-b-w decisions. Apart from this however, Phagoo Ram, the Calcutta Cricket Club ground bowler, and Salegram, the Frontier Cricket Club player, bowled remarkably well. The first named has been declared by no less an authority than Mr. K. J. Key to be barring Crossland, Watson, Garrett, and Palmer the best practice wicket bowler he has ever seen. In the match between Aligarh College and the Hindus the Hindu captain only put him on for five overs, when of course he had no opportunity of showing his form. He bowls with his head changing his pace well and keeps an excellent length. He got some work on the ball and most of the runs made off him were made by lucky snicks. His five wickets for 21 runs was in every way an excellent performance. If he can bowl as he did on a hard true billiard table wicket he should prove very destructive on a wicket that helps the bowler. Salegram, too, bowled well and has a great reputation as a bowler in Peshawar where he has accomplished some good performances against the Queen's Regiment which includes such good batsmen as Captain H.G. Neale, Captain A. M. Tringham, Captain M. S. Heath, Captain Mathew-Lannowe, K. O. Goldie, the Sussex County player and H. G. Bignell, and Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Lahore stations. The match will be continued to-day at 11 o'clock. The following are the scores:—

DR. PAVRI'S XI.

Mr H D Kanga, b Manackchund	21
Mr Razzak, l-b-w b Date	66
Mr Abid Housain l-b-w, b Baloo	41
Mr D L de Saram, c Manackchund, b Baloo	30
Mr R E Mody, not out	13
Mr Bhandare, c and b Baloo	0
Mr C V Mehta l-b-w, b Manackchund	0
Mr Salegram, b Manackchund	0
Dr M E Pavri, b Manackchund	0
Mr Phagoo Ram, b Masood	4
Mr Tumboowala, b Masood	0
Extras	11
Total	198

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O	R	M	W
Mr Maneckchund (a)	14	43	5	4
Mr Ali Hasan	11	32	1	0
Mr Baloo	23	39	6	3
Mr Nanik Ram	5	16	1	0
Mr Date	4	14	2	1
Mr Shivlal (b)	2	11	0	0
Mr Masood	4	6	0	2

(a) Bowled one wide ball.
(b) Bowled one no ball.

MR. AHSAN-UL-HAK'S XI.

Mr Masurker, b Phagoo Ram	0
Mr Sanjana, c de Saram, b Salegram	0
Mr Syid Mahomed l-b-w, Phagoo Ram	24
Mr Masood, c Pavri, b Salegram	3
Mr Shivlal, c de Saram, b Salegram	10
Mr Ali Hasan l-b-w, b Phagoo Ram	0
Mr Ahsan-ul-Hak, not out	7
Mr Baloo, c Razzak, b Salegram	0
Mr Maneckchund, c Tumboowala, b Salegram	0
Mr Date l-b-w, b Phagoo Ram	0
Mr Nanik Ram, b Phagoo Ram	0
Extras	10
Total	74

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O	R	M	W
Mr Phagoo Ram	8·2	21	1	5
Mr Salegram	8	23	2	5

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BOMBAY STANDING COMMITTEE.

THE weekly meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bombay Municipal Corporation was held yesterday afternoon at the Council Hall of the Municipality, Dr. A. G. Viegas presiding. There were also present, Mr. T. W. Caffe, the Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtulla, the Hon'ble Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, Mr. James MacDonald, the Hon'ble Mr. Vithaldas Damodar Thackersay, Dr. N. N. Katrak, Mr. H. G. Gell, and Mr. M. N. Wadia, the secretary.

THE LATE MR. S. D. KHOTE.

A letter from Mr. Eknath B. Khote thanking the Chairman and the Members of the Standing Committee for the kind manner in which they had expressed their regret on behalf of his nephew the late Mr. S. D. Khote, and acknowledged in suitable terms the services rendered by him, was accorded.

MAINS AND STORAGE WORKS.

Consideration was given to a letter from the Commissioner in which the latter stated that Mr. Sherring, the Special Officer, who had arrived from Europe had made himself acquainted with the details of the mains, storage works, etc., and had applied for the necessary establishment required to carry out the work. Assuming that the work would be completed in one year, the total amount required for the work was Rs. 27,493, to which had to be added Rs. 1,700 on account of the Special Officer's salary during his voyage to Bombay and his passage money etc., making a total of Rs. 29,193. In anticipation of the sanction of the Standing Committee and the Corporation he (the Commissioner) had granted sanction for the establishment with a view to commence operations at once. The Commissioner further stated that Mr. Sherring was of opinion that all the mains could not be laid until some more Deacon's meters were affixed. He (the Commissioner) was awaiting the Special Officer's proposal in the matter.

It was resolved to recommend the Corporation to sanction the grant applied for.

EDUCATION GRANT.

The Committee considered a letter to the Chairman from the Secretary, Joint Schools Committee, dated the 24th December, 1903—Representing the desirability of granting at an early date the request of the Joint Schools Committee for an increased contribution by the Corporation for primary education in view of the enhanced Government contribution. The Secretary in his letter stated:—As the Standing Committee are aware, the Government have increased their grant to primary education from Rs. 39,330 to Rs. 72,112, with effect from 1st October 1903. At the enhanced rate, the total amount payable by Government for the current year will be Rs. 57,389. Under Section 120 (c) of the Act, the Municipal contribution added to the fees levied from schools in each official year must not be less than double the Government grant for that year. The sanctioned Municipal contribution for this year being Rs. 80,000, and the fee receipts being estimated at Rs. 20,000, the two items make a total of Rs. 1,00,000; and as double the Government grant will be Rs. 114,778, it is incumbent on the Corporation to sanction a supplementary grant of Rs. 14,778, in order to make up the statutory amount. It is important to point out that the Government grant being contingent on the Corporation fulfilling their legal obligation, the Committee will not be able to prefer the bills in respect of it for payment until the Corporation have been pleased to sanction the additional grant. The bills for the Government grant which are submitted quarterly have to be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that the Municipal contribution, plus school fees, will not be less than double the Government grant, and it is not possible to issue such certificate until the Corporation sanction the supplementary grant. As the suspension of the Government grant until the necessary condition precedent thereto is complied with, may lead to financial embarrassment, it is earnestly hoped that the Corporation will be so good as to sanction the additional amount at an early date. But apart from the statutory liability of the Corporation to make a supplementary grant in the middle of a year under the above circumstances, I am desired by the Committee to point out that larger funds are immediately needed to carry through a number of reforms that are urgent but are delayed for want of funds and they will take the necessary steps to initiate them as soon as they are supplied with the additional sum applied for. With the view of avoiding possible misapprehension, it is desirable to explain that the School Fund Budget for the current year was framed with the strictest economy consistent with efficiency, in order to keep well within the means available at the time it was prepared. But it would be a mistake to infer therefrom that any additional amount placed at the disposal of the Committee is not needed or will be superfluous. There is ample room for reforms and improvements entailing very considerable additional expenditure, and some of the directions in which they are needed are indicated below:—(a) The raising of the salary of untrained teachers who are limited under the rules to a pay of Rs. 10 per mensem. Rs. 10 a month for teachers in Bombay is a very low salary and in the interest of education should be done away with as soon as possible. (b) Wider employment of trained teachers on a higher salary, to the ultimate exclusion of untrained men. (c) Establishment of new Municipal schools in localities where they are urgently needed. (d) Registering new schools for grant-in-aid. (e) Payment of grant-in-aid according to the Revised Code, in which the rate is about 33 per cent. higher than the old rate. The new rate has long been in force all over the Presidency with the sole exception of Bombay City, and it is only fair that it should now be introduced, as desired by Government. Government have for several years been urging the Committee to introduce the revised rate and it would not be either decent or possible to resist the desire of Government in this matter, looking to the liberal manner in which they have raised their contribution. (b) Better equipment of Municipal schools with furniture, and with Kindergarten, physical and other apparatus. (g) A central library and museum for the use of schools. (h) Better and more commodious hired buildings for schools. Some of the present school buildings are most unsuitable and it is absolutely want of fund that prevent the Committee from spending more on rents for better buildings. These are among the measures in contemplation for the extension and improvement of primary education in Bombay, which await the sanction of additional funds for their introduction. The Committee have long and anxiously considered these various matters and beg to request the Coronation to enable them to carry out some of the urgent reforms without further delay by sanctioning the above grant. As regards the Municipal contribution for the year 1904-05, the Committee venture to think there can be no question as to the legal liability of the Corporation to make provision for such a grant as would, with the fees, be double the Government grant."

The letter was referred to the Commissioner for his remarks and the Committee adjourned till Tuesday.

THE CITY MORTALITY.

The Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending at 6 a.m. yesterday, give the following results:—

Ward	Plague Attacks.	Deaths.	Death from all Causes.
A Upper, Middle and Lower Colaba, Fort Northern, Fort Southern and Esplanade	3	1	2
B Mandvi, Chukla, Comerkhadi and Dongri	4	8	23
C Market, Dhobi Talao, Fanaswady, Bhuleshwar, Khara Talao, and Kumbharwada	3	2	11
D Khetwadi, Girgaum Chowpati, Walkeshwar, and Mahalaxmi	3	2	8
E Mazagon, (Tarwady, 2nd Nagpada, Kamalpura, Tardeo, Byculla and 1st Nagpada	6	5	21
F Parel, Sewree and Sion	4	1	8
G Mahim and Worli	0	0	5
Water Division	0	0	1
Non-Resident and Unknown	0	0	0
Hospitals	0	0	9
Total	23	20	88
Total plague deaths to date	263,931	216,312	
Same date last year	27	26	114

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The Bombay Gazette

THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1903.

INDIA AND THE FISCAL QUESTION.

Lecturing before the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, the other day, Mr. James Maclean drew attention to the neglect of Mr. Chamberlain to take into account the position of India as by far the most important of all the possessions of the Crown. Mr. Maclean's idea is that what is wanted in India is not the introduction of any kind of restrictive legislation or the raising once more of the barriers to the freedom of intercourse which this country enjoys, but the increase of facilities for the expansion of her trade. One thing had often struck him, he said, which was that India's opportunities were sadly crippled by the necessity that is supposed to exist for restricting her relations with the rest of the world to maritime communications alone. Mr. Maclean is scarcely abreast of the time in this respect, for no such idea prevails and Government has in many ways endeavoured to encourage commercial intercourse with the countries beyond her boundaries. At the same time there are many who will agree with him in the desire that India shall be left out of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, as India has already a tariff, imposed solely for revenue purposes; and as the bulk of her trade is with England, her exchequer must suffer as a result of any interference with the present scale of import duties, unless indeed those against foreign imports were raised when the risk would be the closing of our markets to foreign goods of a class that British manufacturers will not supply, however greatly they may be in demand. Mr. Maclean holds that although it would be a good thing for Indian wheat were the English markets closed against the foreigner, that commodity is but a small fraction of the great imports of grain required to feed the English people and there is no room for much expansion, as there is not in India an unlimited area of uncultivated land which might be devoted to the cultivation of this particular crop, such as existed in Canada and the United States. Again he asked what would be the inevitable result of penalising tea from China in favor of its Indian competitor? British trade with China was nearly as valuable as with India, and an edict from Pekin was all that was required to prohibit the importation of Indian opium into China, and it was unlikely that England would make such a prohibition the pretext for another opium war. A countervailing duty also on Russian petroleum oil would be met through the imposition of penalties in the tea trade between India and Russia; and when it was asserted that England might greatly benefit India by granting a preference in favour of her cotton it should be remembered that only a small proportion of the Indian cotton exported now came to England.

At the meeting of the Society, we had the unusual occurrence of the Chairman disapproving the lecturer's theories. Sir Edward Sassoon who presided on the occasion, expressed his belief that some reasonable give-and-take scheme of commercial federation which would join India and Great Britian and the Colonies would be perfectly workable. And he presumed that if India were asked to join an imperial customs federation she would be asked to reduce her duties on imported goods, received from Great Britain and the Colonies; and on the other hand to raise the import duties on articles from foreign countries. Precisely, and that is what we from India cannot afford to do. But we must give Sir Edward credit for having thought out his subject, when he gives it as his opinion that the Indian revenue would not suffer to any extent from the policy and that foreign countries would think twice before taking measures of reprisal against India in respect of articles necessary for their populations and industries. He told his hearers that instead of having no available land for the cultivation of wheat, as Mr. Maclean feared, there were millions of acres of land fitted for wheat-growing, now lying fallow and under a preferential tariff that wheat would go into England free. Thus the area of employment in India would be widened and the diffusion of wealth in the country would be great. Sir Henry Fowler supported Mr. Maclean. He did not argue, contenting himself with putting a series of questions. How was the official scheme of the Government going to affect India? How was she to be affected by the scheme of retaliation? He was not aware that anything was dumped in India or that any of her industries had been ruined. He was under the impression that the industries of India were more prosperous to-day than they had been almost within the memory of man. But what Indian industry would be benefited by retaliatory duties? Sir Henry pinned his faith to the fact that "every living ex-Viceroy and almost every ex-Secretary of State was opposed to this policy in the interests of India." We attach very little importance to the opinions either of ex-Viceroys or ex-Secretaries of State. Those of officials who have studied their subject and have the necessary information at first hand are preferable, for they are the men whose brains have guided the hands of Viceroys and Secretaries of State. Such were present when Mr. Maclean's paper was read and their views coincided with those of Sir Edward Sassoon. Besides those present at Mr. Maclean's lecture, other prominent men have written on the subject of India and the fiscal question; foremost among them being Sir Edgar Vincent, late financial adviser to the Egyptian Government; Sir Charles Elliott late lieutenant-governor of Bengal; and Sir Roper Lethbridge. Sir Edgar pleads for uniformity, contending that if preferential treatment be accorded Australia and Canada it must be extended to India, and that the preferential conditions given to us must not be less favourable than those given to the colonies, a sentiment we heartily endorse. But we must still wait for a clearly cut scheme, when we shall be able to decide whether to oppose or support it. India has been overlooked so far and no definite attempt made to show us how it is proposed to deal with us.

Meantime it is well to study the subject and the paper which Sir Charles Elliott contributed to the "Empire Review" claims attention. Sir Roper Lethbridge, in the January number of the "Asiatic Quarterly" describes Sir Charles as the greatest living authority on all economic questions connected with the material condition of the Indian peoples and he would have us believe that it is impossible to exaggerate the weight and importance of the plain declaration with which he concludes his article. "The facts and arguments set forth seem to show that as far as India is concerned, the adoption of a system of Freferential Tariffs will be beneficial to the trade of the two countries and will offend against no sound economic principles." When two such authorities as Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Edward Buck, writes Sir Roper, spontaneously and independently record their deliberate conviction that the best possible insurance against Indian famines is to be looked for in the expansion of the Indian wheat-growing industry that will follow the adoption of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, it seems to him that it must be impossible for any sincere well-wisher of India any longer to resist those proposals. Yet we must not forget that, so far as India, at all events, is concerned, Mr. Chamberlain has entered upon the conflict with an imperfect equipment of statistical knowledge and has not realised how necessary it is to support abstract proposals by concrete instances. Free trade between England and India has been found impossible. We are intensely protectionist as Lord George Hamilton told us, and shall doubtless continue to be so. But before any change is made in our fiscal policy we are justified in demanding that the opinions of men, versed in the commerce and finance of the country, shall be ascertained. Mr. Chamberlain has promised that the country shall be consulted. We can only regret that no apparent effort has even yet been made to consult it. Sir Charles Elliott assures us that much benefit might accrue to the trade of England in cotton goods, iron and steel and salt and to that of Mauritius in sugar. Similarly he thinks that India might receive great advantage in respect of its production of tea, coffee, tobacco, wheat, rice and indigo. There are those who from the same premises would arrive at an entirely different conclusion. But in the absence of a clearly measured scheme, with accurate figures, showing not only how the tariff reforms propose to deal with the whole subject and India in particular it is well to suspend judgment, even though approving Mr. Chamberlain's policy as applied to other parts of the Empire.

TO FIGHT COTTON GAMBLERS.

THE operations of the speculators who have succeeded in sending up the prices of cotton to a record pitch with profitable results to themselves and the prospects of ruin to an important British industry, have made a deep impression on the minds of those associated with the industry. The British manufacturer, and least of all the Lancashire man, is not enamoured of legislative interference with industrial and commercial enterprise, but when these things threaten his own existence it seems to him perfectly natural that Government should step in to protect him. It was an extremely easy matter for the master-spinners and operatives in Manchester to pass a resolution requesting Government to prevent gambling in cotton, but it must have occurred to a gathering of shrewd representatives of the trade that it would be exceedingly difficult for Government to do anything of the kind. The British Government, however desirous it may be of emulating Mr. Roosevelt in anti-Trust legislation, cannot influence the operations of speculators in the American market. The Browns and other cornerers of the American crop can only be fought with their own weapons and it would have been more to the point if the Manchester meeting had attempted to devise a practical method of combatting the men who drive prices up to abnormal heights and bring hardship upon many thousands of people. A practical proposal has been already made by Mr. T. J. Eggers who has outlined his scheme in a communication to a Manchester contemporary. His proposition amounts to the creation of a Trust to fight a Trust, or a combination of all interested in the cotton trade to defeat the manipulators of the American market. To fight the clique which creates the corner, Mr. Eggers points out, requires money and cotton for tendering purposes; and as there have been no fighting firms in the cotton markets of the world for some years a handful of daring manipulators are able to run up prices by simply demanding delivery of 150,000 bales of cotton. The remedy for the present state of things cannot be found in British-grown cotton, for no other cotton is like that of America. What the cotton world requires, says Mr. Eggers, is fighting money. Joseph Leiter's wheat corner was fought by Mr. Armour at his own cost, but in the cotton world there is nobody prepared to put his hand in his pocket for the expense of fighting the manipulators. Therefore Mr. Eggers proposes for this purpose a combination to be called the American Cotton Anti-Corner Trust Company. Its capital, which would be the sinews of war, would be subscribed by the legitimate cotton traders of the world, including spinners, merchants, brokers, and dealers in cotton goods, who would subscribe, say, one £5 share each under limited liability.

The author of this scheme declares that if a capital of £500,000 could be so created the existence of the Company would deter any clique from buying up millions of bales of futures while knowing that they could hardly take up 150,000 to 200,000 bales of cotton. Under present conditions, he points out, the threat of taking up 150,000 bales fixes the price on the millions which the cliques hold, and this causes an advancing market and artificial conditions. It is admitted that even such a Trust with half a million of capital would be unable to intervene when no actual cotton could be bought for delivery on contract, but it could prevent manipulations when there is plenty of cotton. The New York bankers formed a Trust to prevent a money crisis in Wall Street and the fact of the existence of this combination, without action on its part, prevented money rates rising too high. The action of the proposed international Anti-Cotton Corner Trust would be to buy actual cotton at the opportune time and dump it, and having the capital stated it could dump so much that the manipulators would be unable to finance or take it up. The buying of the actual cotton would be accompanied by simultaneous hedging at a loss estimated at about £40 per 100 bales. Mr. Eggers states that nobody can prevent corners at the end of the season, but the world has a right to protect itself against corners on a delivery which is only prevented by the small margin of loss incurred in taking the cotton to port where delivery is demanded. The question, he adds, is simply one of how to defeat the gambling mania based on futures only, and this can only be done by compelling cliques who buy millions to take the cotton as a punishment, even if it be at a loss to the Trust. The scheme to fight the manipulators appears to have been carefully thought out by its author who safeguards his plan from interference by the men he wants to fight, by proposing that shares in the Company should not be transferrable or saleable, that they should only represent voting powers, and that nobody should hold more than from two to five shares. He proposes a directorate of thirty to represent all branches of the trade in all countries. The existence of such a Company, he believes, would be such a terror to any gambling combination that it would not be often necessary for the trade combination to act.

THE Bank of Bombay has yesterday raised its rate of interest on demand loans on Government Paper to 6 per cent.

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD LAMINGTON, the Governor of Bombay, has accepted the Honorary Patronage of the Bombay Sanitary Association and will preside at the inaugural meeting of the Association on Tuesday, the 12th January next.

MR. KISCH will probably represent India at the International Postal Congress in Rome next April.

SIR JOHN and Lady Stanley have arrived in Calcutta from Allahabad and are staying at Government House.

THE report of the Commission assembled in Calcutta to consider the Luff Point scheme is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. Cowie, C. S., who met with an accident while pigsticking in the Wardha district, is slightly better.

THE Raja Bhaskara Setupati, Raja of Ramnad, died on Sunday evening. He was born in 1868, was head of the Maravar family or caste, and by custom entitled to affix the title of "Setupati" or lord of the causeway (an allusion to Adam's Bridge) to his name.

A MEMORANDUM issued from the General Post Office shows that the Indian Postal authorities contemplate bringing into effect a number of improved facilities in the postal service, and these will be welcomed and appreciated by the general public. The limit of the weight of a registered newspaper has been raised from four to six tolas, and it will in future be possible to insure registered letters to a number of places, in regard to which such a safeguard has not been hitherto possible. The parcel post has been extended, and also the possibility of insuring parcels, and a change that will be generally appreciated is a reduction in the rates for parcels despatched to the United Kingdom. The foreign money order system has been extended, and the rate of commission on sterling money orders reduced. Several new denominations of postal orders have also been made available.

THE "Berlin Post" announces that King Edward has given one thousand marks (£50) towards the erection of a Blucher monument at Stolp, in the province of Pomerania, His Majesty being chief of the local regiment of Hussars known as that of Prince Blucher von Wahlstatt.

THE "Koelnische Zeitung" publishes the following telegram from St. Petersburg: "The British expedition to Thibet and Lord Curzon's tour in the Persian Gulf are exciting public opinion in Russia to an extraordinary degree Everywhere the apprehension finds expression that these events will not only restore Great Britain's diminished prestige, but will enhance it to such an extent that Russia has every reason to be concerned for her own position in Asia."

ANOTHER Socialistic riot against the employment of registry offices occurred at Brest on the night of December 5 h. Three thousand men marched through the streets singing the "Internationale," and committing assaults upon every respectable-looking person they met. An attack was made upon the offices of the "Depeche de Brest," the editor and staff of which stood at the windows armed with revolvers threatening to shoot anyone who attempted to enter the building. The troops were called out, and had to charge the crowd several times before they were dispersed and order restored.

ALL sorts of things have been said as to the real reason for and results from the recent visit of the King to foreign rulers, but George R. Sims gives us a new thrill by a reason which he mentions with much mystery. "If the true story of recent royal tours and return visits were written," he said, "it would be found that King Edward had, on the field of diplomacy, won a second Waterloo, a victory all the greater for being bloodless We have been very near a big European war," he continues. "At any moment a spark would have fired the magazine. But we got possession of the details of a secret intrigue which was being carried on between two great Powers, and we moved the powder to a place of safety. Britain's new union with the Latin races and her alliance with Japan have been bitter blows to two northern potentates who had together planned a pretty little scheme for smashing up the British Empire. Fortunately for us there was hesitation on the part of one of the Powers at the critical moment. Then the plot was discovered by one of our secret service agents, and the details of the anti-British Alliance were obtained by one of the most brilliant coups ever brought off by a Foreign Office detective. Forewarned is forearmed, and Great Britain can await the course of events with a philosophic smile. But the two great rulers who thought they had arranged everything so nicely, and were going to "smash up the British Empire," are feeling exceedingly sore just now."

A MUSICIAN'S CENTENARY.

SKETCH OF HECTOR BERLIOZ.

(BY E. A. BAUGHAN.)

EXACTLY a hundred years ago Hector Berlioz was born at Cote St. Andre. During the last month we have been honouring his memory by centenary concerts. A centenary is, of course, an arbitrary standpoint for the appreciation of any artist's work, and how few of us can honestly say that we can approach Berlioz's music in any new spirit. It has been appreciated at its true value for many years now; the best of it lives the rest is practically forgotten. But not so the man himself. He was one of the few composers who possessed the literary gift, and his letters, his memoirs, the "A travers chants" and "Soirees d'Orchestre" make the man alive to us now. Berlioz's literary output would have earned him fame had he never written a note of music. He looms in the imagination as an ideal figure of the brave artist struggling against his antagonists, the Philistines. His very excesses become virtues, writes Mr. E. A. Baughan in the "Daily News"; and in reading what he has written of himself we are persuaded that he was a very great genius indeed, so that to hear his music is somewhat of a disappointment. The fact is Berlioz had a greater nature than ever got itself expressed in his music, and the interest which his character still arouses is a singular proof of the power of personal magnetism. Full of glowing ideals, courageous to the point of wordly foolishness, yet withal a man of shrewd perceptions and keen knowledge of his fellow men, saturated with the romantic ideas of the early half of last century, and in his youth and during all his life a devout admirer of eighteenth-century classical music; yet in his music he devoted himself to a grotesque and fantastic realism; sardonic and a trifle ill-natured in his comments on those he did not admire, he nevertheless could be prodigal of praise and generosity. And behind all these inconsistencies glowed a white heat of passion which never lost its consuming force.

BERLIOZ PORTRAIT.

On the whole, allowing for literary exaggerations, Berlioz limned a true portrait of himself in his writings. Only, in his memoirs, he did his best to cover up the kindness of the heart which beat within his enigmatical personality. "The musical works of Berlioz may earn him glory," wrote Gounod. "The published letters will do more. They will earn him love; and that is the most precious of earthly things." During his life Berlioz never courted that love, but fought keen and long against indifference. The fight was real enough; it was no more tilting against windmills. Let me quote Gounod again: "The great public, that 'every-body' which turns success into popularity, never knew him. Popularity was so slow in coming to Berlioz that he died of the delay. The end came at last, with the 'Troyens,' a work which, as he foresaw, caused him a world of sorrow. As his namesake and hero, he may be said to have perished before the walls of Troy. Every impression, every sensation Berlioz underwent was carried to an extreme. He knew no joy or sorrow short of downright delirium. As he himself would say, he was a volcano." Gounod has been guilty of some exaggeration in this estimate of Berlioz's environment for the composer, in his later years, was acclaimed in Germany, Russia, and especially here in London, but to say that he was ever popular would not represent the facts. His position was much akin to that of Richard Strauss of to-day, and certainly he was more appreciated by his contemporaries than Wagner was.

BERLIOZ AND WAGNER.

The relation of the composer of the "Ring des Nibelungen" to the composer of the "Symphonie Fantastique" is little understood to this day. Some writers who ought to know better state Wagner learnt much from Berlioz in the matter of orchestration, whereas as late as 1853, when Wagner had composed "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin," which show a mastery of the orchestra Berlioz never possessed, Wagner knew but little of Berlioz's scores, which he did not even possess, as his letters to Liszt clearly prove. Berlioz, on his part, recognised a rival in Wagner, whom he had met in Dresden and Paris some years earlier. The two great composers came to appreciate each other better when both were in London in 1855. They met at dinner, and Wagner discussed with Berlioz "for five hours all the problems of art, philosophy, and life in a most fascinating conversation. In that manner I gained (writes Wagner) a deep sympathy for my new friend; he appeared to me quite different from what he had done before. We discovered suddenly that we were in reality fellow-sufferers, and I thought, upon the whole, I was happier than Berlioz." The natural fascination of the French composer had had its effect on Wagner, as indeed it had on all who came into contact with him and could look behind the outward eccentricities and, I am afraid I must say, the pose of the man. Berlioz influenced Hans von Bulow in the same way. Before the young pianist had made Berlioz's acquaintance he wrote, "He is certainly a Frenchman through and through, and his brilliancy rests on externals." Afterwards von Bulow was enthusiastic in his praise of Berlioz and his music. Some two years later we read of "this Master," for whose works Bulow had then a perfect understanding. "I understand and appreciate his music in all the unity of its individuality; and the many flights of his genius, which had struck me at first, do not shine any longer in the darkness, for that is dissipated." Berlioz, in truth, exacted an enthusiasm equal to his own, and it was the tragedy of his life that so few of his contemporaries were kindled by his ideas. Perhaps even now only those who are capable of unreasoning enthusiasm really appreciate Berlioz's music. Through its "brilliant externals," through its theatricality, and musical cheapness they hear a clear note of inspiration which is unheard by duller ears.

HALLE'S REMINISCENCES.

The late Charles Halle was not one of these, although his sympathy for the composer was by no means cold. But as a musician Halle echoes what was no doubt the prevalent attitude of musicians towards Berlioz. Perhaps many undoubted crudities in his works would have been eliminated had he been able to hear them before committing them to paper, for I had several proofs that the eye alone was not sufficient to give him a clear idea of the effect of his musical combination. Halle mentions an instance of this. On one occasion Berlioz arrived at his house and eagerly told him he had found a new cadence to end a movement with. The last chord, he said, is the chord of G. major, and I precede it by one in B minor. When I told him there were hundreds of examples of such an ending, he would not believe me, and was greatly astonished when we searched for and found them. The evidence of another intimate friend of Berlioz, Stephen Heller, bears this out, and speaks of Berlioz's poor musical memory of modern music. But music which he had studied was never forgotten, particularly the orchestral works of Beethoven (except the quartets and compositions for the piano), the operas of Gluck, Spontini, Gretry, Mehal, Dalayrac, and Monsigny. . . . Berlioz was a truly artistic spirit, and he gave himself up to every perfect production, and was moved even to tears by them. It was so when I went with him to the first appearance of Patti in the Barbiere. He wept during the gayest and loveliest passages of this opera. Heller was inclined to think that Berlioz much exaggerated the indifference with which his music was received in Paris. If musicians were not all admirers of Berlioz, he had the homage of such men as Victor Hugo, Lamartine, Dumas, Balzac, Delacroix, and Ary Scheffer; the fashionable world was on his side, and many of the younger musicians hailed him as their leader. Then, as now, however, the staunchest admirers of Berlioz's music were to be found not among musician nor those gifted with specific musical appreciation, but among painters and literary men. Perhaps Berlioz knew that and resented it. Heller draws a vivid picture of Berlioz's gaiety and wit, which goes far to make one understand the influence and fascination of the man.

TELEGRAMS.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE FAR EAST.

Japanese Preparations Complete.

UNLIMITED MILITARY CREDIT.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29.

Reuter wires from Tokio that an Emergency Ordinance was promulgated late last night, investing the Government with practically unlimited credit for the purpose of military defence.

Three other Ordinances have been issued—

Firstly, for bringing the Seoul-Fusan Railway under closer Government control; secondly, for re-organizing the Head-quarters Staff in time of war; and, thirdly, creating a War Council.

These complete the preparations for all emergencies.

The Russian orders for mess-meat are part of an order for three million pounds given from the Vladivostock agency of Getz and Company.

LONDON, DECEMBER 30.

Russia and Japan are buying quantities of beef at Chicago.

One hundred thousand barrels of flour have been sold at St. Paul for export to Japan.

Eleven thousand five hundred tons of coal are loading at Norfolk Virginia for Japan.

A "Daily Telegraph" despatch from Tokio says that the emergency measures include the raising of a temporary loan repayable in two years.

The "Standard" in a telegram from Tokio says the Government is authorised to draw on the emergency fund for fifty million yen.

The cruiser King Alfred was inspected at Portsmouth yesterday prior to her departure for China with relief crews.

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.

Mr. Chamberlain's Commission

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST.

A further list of members of Mr. Chamberlain's Tariff Commission includes Sir Robert Herbert (Chairman), Sir George Ryder and Sir Clementi Smith and Mr. Frederick Baynes and Mr. Charles Eckersley, Lancashire cotton spinners, Mr. Evans, Director of Dickinson and Company, paper-makers, and Mr. Keswick, of Jardine Matheson and Co.

TRANSVAAL LABOUR.

The Debate in Council.

The debate on Asiatic labour is being continued in the Transvaal Council.

The Attorney-General has supported Sir George Farrar's motion.

THE COTTON GAMBLE.

Lancashire and Its Results.

DEMAND FOR LEGISLATION.

LONDON DECEMBER 30.

At a meeting held at Manchester of the master cotton spinners and operatives, it was decided to request Government to take steps to prevent gambling in cotton.

It was declared that legislation was necessary to deal with what is a grave national danger.

It was also stated that it was almost impossible to secure universal short time.

ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER.

Enthronement of Dr. Bourne.

The Right Rev. Doctor Bourne was enthroned to-day as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster at the new Cathedral. The ceremony was most impressive.

HEAVY RAIN IN MADRAS.

FLOODS AND DAMAGE.

MADRAS, DECEMBER 20.

Very heavy rain fell in Madras all yesterday and still continues. A great portion of the city is again flooded. Traffic is at a standstill. The tramcars are stopped, and the gharries are demanding prohibitive fares. The compound in which the Congress is sitting is practically under water. At 5 p.m., yesterday, a regular tornado visited Chetpat, working great havoc but fortunately only in a small area. The greater part of the new Dhobykhana was levelled with the ground, the zinc sheeting being carried over 100 yards away. Several large McNichol's rods snapped like matchwood. Every plant and living thing was laid level with the ground, and tiles were blown off the houses. Several native houses in the Chetpat village collapsed. The roads are quite impassable.

MRS. BESANT IN MADRAS.

Mrs. Besant yesterday delivered the second of her course of convention lectures on the physical evolution of man before a crowded audience in spite of the inclemency of the weather.

THE MACPHERSON CUP will be RUN for at Calcutta, December 31st. Long Prices and combinations from CHARLES HARDING, 28, Esplanade Road, Bombay.

OLD HARROVIANS IN CALCUTTA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, DECEMBER 30.

The following attended the Old Harrovians dinner here last night:—Sir Henry Prinsep, Generals Locke-Elliot and Wolfe-Murray, Messrs. Paul, Hills, J. G. Apcar, A. A. Apcar, Alexander Apcar, Caskery, Cuvitt, Reynolds, Morison, Stewart, Bosworth-Smith, Chotzner, Ralli, Ballantyne, Lloyd, Palaviet, Scaramanga, Fisher, Campbell, Bulloch, Bass, Chichester and Thomas.

ROYAL ENGINEER COMMANDS.

Major H. L. H. Stafford is now appointed Commanding Royal Engineer, Sind, instead of Rohilkhand, relieving Colonel Mein who goes to Rohilkhand in a similar capacity.

THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS GAZETTE.

The usual New Year's Honours Gazette will be issued to-morrow night here for publication on the first of January next.

DRAWING-ROOM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The drawing-room held at Government House here to-night was a brilliant spectacle, the number of those present being unusually large. The Delhi Durbar had interfered with this function last year.

BANK OF CALCUTTA LIMITED.

HALFY-EARLY REPORT.

The net profits of the Bank of Calcutta, Limited, for the half-year ended 30th instant, are Rs. 1 02,596 which includes Rs. 29, 93 brought forward from the last half-year. Rs. 50,000 is added to the reserve fund, making that fund Rs. 16,00,000 lakhs and after paying interest on preference shares and dividend on ordinary shares at the rates of six and five per cent. per annum respectively, there remains Rs. 25,096 to carry forward to the next account.

DEATH OF SIR WM. AGNEW.

CALCUTTA, DECEMBER 30.

A special telegram to the "Englishman" announces the death of Sir William Agnew.

[Sir William Agnew was the son of Thomas Agnew, Manchester, and was born in 1825. He was Chairman of Bradbury, Agnew and Co., printers and publishers and proprietors of "Punch." He was also President of the Manchester Children's Hospital, the Whitworth Institute, the Salford Liberal Association and the Manchester Reform Club. For many years he was the head of the firm of Thomas Agnew and Sons, publishers and art dealers of London, Liverpool and Manchester. He was the author of many essays and addresses and notes of travel. He was elected Liberal Member of Parliament for S. E. Lancashire in 1880 and for the Stretford Division of Lancashire in 1885. He was created a baronet in 1895.

ARREST OF A HINDU HIGH PRIEST.

A PECULIAR CASE OF MISREPRESENTATION.

POONA, DECEMBER 30.

The police are at present investigating a rather peculiar case of misrepresentation by telegram. The facts briefly stated are that about two months ago the Lingayat community of Barsi Town celebrated the anniversary of one of their saints and asked the high-priest at Poona to be present at the ceremony. The high-priest duly left but was arrested at Dhond owing to three long telegrams being despatched by a man who appeared at the railway telegraph office giving a detailed description of the priest by whom, he alleged, he was robbed and promising to follow by the next train. Other messages stated that he had missed the trains. The thing turned out to be a hoax and the Lingayats at Barsi had to release the high-priest from the custody of the police at Dhond after some delay. It now turns out that the name given at the telegraph office is that of a dead man and that some Lingayats at Barsi were against the priest's presence at that place.

THE CHRISTMAS GOLF TOURNAMENT.

The Christmas Golf Tournament ended to-day. The play was a very close one and was won by Miss Foster and Colonel Bromfield by 66—8—57. The special prize presented by the Club was won by Mr. S. Bagshaw.

AN OFFICER IN TROUBLE.

BANGALORE, DECEMBER, 30.

Second-Lieutenant Couper, who is said to have been promoted from the ranks of the 2nd Lincoln Regiment and is now attached to the 6th Dragoon Guards stationed at Bangalore, was brought under arrest from the Connemara Hotel, Madras, this morning, on a complaint made to the civil police that he had left this station contrary to orders. He has hardly done any duty with his regiment. After being gazetted he became a probationer for the Indian Army and has been continuously away from his regiment ever since until he was returned to it the other day as being unsuitable for that service.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO MYSORE.

Lord and Lady Henry Bentinck and Lord and Lady Manners with the Hon'ble Mary Manners whose visit to Mysore on a shooting excursion as guests of H. H. the Maharaja was arranged for January 4, now do not arrive till January 25. The shikar camp is being arranged in the Gundlepett Jungles.

THE INDIAN CONGRESS.

THE COLONIES AND INDIANS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRAS, DECEMBER 30.

The Congress resumed its sittings yesterday, but the meeting was adjourned to-day. Mr. D. E. Wacha of Bombay opened the debate on public service commissions and proposed a resolution regretting that the labours of these commissions had practically proved void of any good result to the people of this country. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Hon'ble Mr. Govinda-Raghava Aiyer next proposed that the Congress viewed with alarm the tendency of the increase of land revenue assessment every time there is a revision. The proposition was carried.

Dr. A. L. Desai, Bombay, then moved that the Congress views with grave concern and regret the hard lot of his Majesty's Indian subjects living in the British Colonies of South Africa, Australia and elsewhere and the great hardships and disabilities to which they are subjected by the Colonial Governments, and the consequent degradation of their status and rights as subjects of the King, protests against the treatment of Indians by the Colonies as backward and uncivilized races, and it prays, in view of the great part Indian settlers have played in the development of the Colonies and the economic advantages that have resulted both to India and to the Colonies from their emigration to and stay in the latter, that the Government of India will be pleased to ensure them all the rights and privileges of British citizenship in common with the European subjects of his Majesty by enforcing, if necessary, such measures as will render it impossible for the Colonies to secure Indian immigrants except on fair, equitable and honourable terms, and in view of the great importance of the principle of equal treatment to all his Majesty's subjects, the Government should devise adequate measures to ensure that position in all British Colonies.

Mr. Sievwright who is the accredited representative of colored British subjects in Australia, in seconding the proposition, said he appeared before them that day on behalf of their fellow-subjects in Australia and that they had deputed him to present to the Congress a petition and to advocate their cause with the Congress. He then read the petition.

Mr. S. K. Nair, in an admirable and eloquent speech, supported the proposition, which was carried unanimously amidst loud cheers.

PLAGUE IN COIMBATORE.

The death has occurred from plague of the daughter of a European coffee-planter on the Nelliampathy Hills. The deceased with her mother and sister was recently staying at Coimbatore, where plague attacks average 20 to 30 daily. Much consternation prevails there, and it is estimated that 35,000 out of a total population of 51,000 have already left, taking the risk of infection all over the Presidency.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES AT BANGALORE.

The manœuvres for all arms of the service begin here on January 4 and will be carried out strictly on field service conditions. The hill warfare will be practised near Nundidroog as from the 15th.

THE IN-COMING MAIL.

THE P. and O. Co.'s steamer Peninsular, which is expected to arrive in Bombay on Saturday next, brings the following passengers:—

FROM LONDON.

Argyll Capt AIE	Byramjee two Misses
Dawson Mr D	Byramjee two Masters
Billimoria Mr J C	Savage Lieut M B
Byramjee Mrs	Walters Mrs A E

FROM GIBRALTAR—Ballart two Misses.

FROM MARSEILLES.

Osmaston Mr and Mrs and three children	Russell Mr P
Friedheim Mr H	Dawson Mr C W
Bidwell Mr R M	Cobbold Miss
Hannay Capt C C	Sauer Mr E J
Cox Mr S	Bourne Lt W K
Connell Mr and Mrs R	Allen Mr R
Roddes Mr F	Peters Miss
Northrup Misss	Pool Miss
Horn Mr D B	Stewart Mr Douglas
Guncon Mrs	Ingham Mr W T
Mitchell Capt Mrs and Miss	Rock Mr F A
Irvine Miss H A	White Mr M Grahame
Gordon Mr C E	Numins Mrs and Miss

FROM PORT SAID.

Kinch Mr and Mrs	Isanopolo Mr and Mrs

PASSENGERS PER S. S. NERA.

THE following passengers will sail at 7-15 a. m. to-day per Messageries Maritime Coy steamer Nera from P. Dock No. A for Marseilles etc. There will be the usual Medical inspection at the dock at 6-45 a. m. sharp Native servants and ayahs, and dock passengers must be at the Prince's dock, disinfecting shed at 6-30 a. m with all their baggage—

Augias Mr and Mrs	Gordon C Mr
Adams Mr C	Germain E Mr
Broome L N Mr	Georgiadi Mr and Mrs
Baugin Z Mr	Hlopinski Mr
Bompart Mr	Foster A Mr
Cardeillac Dr and Mrs and Inft	Laurent H Mr
Choply F Mr	Molet Mr and Mrs and Inft
Churchill G R D Captain	Neverlie Counte de
Cairncross Mr and Mrs	Judet de la Combe Dr
Denis Mr Ph	Fancred d V Lt
Degrenand H Mrs	Wheler L C Mrs
Etchave M s	Rabatean F Mr
	Mikaelian

PASSENGERS PER S. S. IMPERATRIX.

The following is the List of passengeres proceeding to Triests and Venice per Austrian Lloydls s.s. "Imperatrix" on Friday, 1st January 1904 from the Stream:—The Medical inspection of the Saloon passengers will take place at the Victoria Dock, Berth No. 7 on Thursday the 31st instant at 5. 15. p. m. Deck passengers should be at the New Disinfecting Station with all their luggage and kit at 2 30 p. m. sharp on Thursday the 31st instant.

Mr G Bauer	Mr M Kribel
Miss M Bevan	Mr K Bindor
Captain A L Cave	Lt Col and Mrs C A Wilson
Mr A Durst	Lt von Szilley

FOR PORT SAID.—Mr Mahomed Hoosein

FOR SUEZ.

Mr Ahmed Abdul Jeli	Mr Mosrut Bin Faris

THE INDIAN SOCIAL CONFERENCE.

MR. JUSTICE CHANDAVARKAR'S ADDRESS.

THE Indian National Social Conference was opened yesterday evening in Madras under the auspices of the Madras Hindu Social Reform Association. Mr. V P. Madhav Rao, C. I. E., Senior Councillor, Mysore State, presided and the inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Justice Chandavarkar of Bombay.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandavarkar at the outset of his address referred to the losses which the party of Social reform had suffered during the year by the deaths of Prof. A Subba Rao, Rao Bahadur Sabapathy Mudaliyar and Maharaja G. N. Gajapati Rao in Southern India, Rao Bahadur Ganesh Govind Gokhale in the Bombay Deccan. Although the late Dewan Bahadur Shrinivasa Raghava Iyengar did not belong to a social reform organization yet his death was also mourned as a loss to the cause. Proceeding to review the progress of the movement Mr. Chandavarkar said:—Every year that passes is not only bringing to the front this momentous problem of social reform but shows how the ferment is deepening and broadening and leading onwards by slow and silent marches the cause. The world force is producing events too vast for us and it is pressing us on whether we will or not. It was that world force which last year witnessed the bonds of the prejudice against foreign travels broken by the visits of a number of our Princes to England in honour of our Sovereign's Coronation. The visit of so orthodox a Hindoo as his Highness the Maharaja of Jeypore was alone enough as an object lesson in that respect. But whether you call it the Time Spirit or whatever name you give it, testimony has come from high quarters and divers directions this year that ideas of social reform are working ahead. It is a sure sign of the times when for instance, his Highness the Aga Khan tells the Mohomedans in plain language and emphatic terms that it is the seclusion of women and the dogma of fatalism which are responsible for their ignorance and their backwardness,—when again his Highness the Gaikwar, one of our most enlightened Princes, whose exemplary life has been the theme of praise in all quarters, publicly condemns the caste institution as it has obtained in India as the real cause of our deterioration. But even more significant is the keynote struck this year on the side of social reform by two ladies each influential in her own way. On the one hand, her Highness the Begum of Bhopal has declared herself on the side of female education. On the other, Mrs. Annie Besant, whose name and whose work in this country have achieved for her great influence, made speeches in the earlier part of the year at Bombay, condemning the custom of early marriage which, she said, was shattering the youth and spoiling the manhood of the country; and the college she has reared up at Benares has taken one step further this year to stem the tide of that custom. This has been a year of Social Conferences more than any other. To mention only some besides the annual Provincial and District Conferences, the Jain communities had a well attended Conference some months ago at Bombay under the presidency of one of their leading men, a venerable gentleman orthodox but enlightened enough to discern that some at any rate of our social customs are proving our curse. At this Conference resolutions were passed on some of the subjects which are to be found in the programme of the National Social Conference. The Rashmiri Pandit held a Conference at Daraganj in September last, where they took up the questions of social reform and declared themselves in favour of most of them. Of a small village, Badoli in the Idar State, containing not more than 2,000 souls, we learn that upwards of a thousand Auditch Brahmins on that side of Guzerat assembled in Conference under the presidency of Mr Chaturbhuj Mankeswar Bhatt, District Magistrate of Idar, and passed resolutions condemning some of their caste customs. The time at my disposal does not enable me to notice other similar conferences held during the year but what I have said ought to be enough to shew that there has been

AN AWAKENING

during the year which is an improvement on the previous years. But perhaps I shall be told that conferences cost nothing and end in mere talk. But that all is not talk and there is also action is attested by the more memorable events of the year just closing. The question of foreign travel has pressed on and two of the influential communities in the Bombay Presidency—the Bhatias and the Kapole Banias—are now called upon seriously to face it. The victory is not yet on the side of the foreign travelled men of these castes who have returned to the country but the struggle has commenced and the orthodox party are bewildered. Turning to the Madras Presidency, we have the cheering fact that the Malayali community of Travancore accorded a cordial welcome to one of their England-returned men and took him back openly into their fold. The Hon'ble Mr. Venkata Rao, the President-elect of the National Social Conference this year, returned from England a few months ago and has been welcomed back by his Brahmin caste people without any ado or fuss. The Saraswat Brahmins of Canara have found this year more clearly than before that their spiritual head did not act wisely in putting the England returned of his caste out of his fold; and his anathemas have borne fruit in the very opposite direction, so much so that every one her fulminated by him has had the effect on the one hand of creating chaos in the community and minimising his influence and on the other of increasing the number of England returned or returning Saraswats, the last of whom will shortly be in the country as a member of the Indian Civil Service. The situation upon the whole is this that the prospects of foreign-travelled men getting back into caste have become more hopeful and the orthodox are finding that the times are against them.

CHILD MARRIAGES.

As to infant and early marriages the situation is best summed up by Mr. Francis, the Census Commissioner of the Madras Presidency, who observes that the Brahmins themselves are beginning to get rid of these evil customs being less addicted to child marriages than they were ten years ago. He thinks that this improvement is due among other causes "to the efforts of the party which has of late years been working for reform in this and other social customs gradually bearing fruit". Even in Bengal, where the social reform movement is the weakest, we have the authority of the Census Commissioner of Bengal to show that the custom of infant marriage is getting slowly into disrepute. He says:—"In North Bihar, the great stronghold of infant marriage, there has been but little change and in Darbhanga the practice is still becoming more prevalent. But in all other parts of the Province it is steadily falling into disrepute, especially in East and Central Bengal." That infant marriage is doomed no one questions now; and I may be told that we ought not to be gushing over it as a sign that the tide is in our favour; but to look in other directions of social reform and say whether the tide is really so. For instance, that vexed question of enforced widowhood, it is said is going backward and often we are reminded that we are knocking our heads against the wall in pleading for the child-widow. I do not deny that it is a hard fight—this for the child widow—and perhaps it may be harder, now that even she for whom we all entertain great respect and whose solid work among us in the shape of the Hindu College at Benares ought to lay us under everlasting gratitude to her—even she has no tears for this most unfortunate of our fellow-creatures—the child-widow. But after all is said even here events are getting to stubborn for that poor creature's opponents. There were five widow marriages in the Bombay Presidency during the year; two at Badhapur in the Bijnor district; three widow marriages in Guntur; one at Calcutta the capital of Bengal, where every fourth girl is shown by statistics to be a child-widow; one in Madras and one at Lahore all among orthodox Hindus some of them Brahmins. This is indeed a very small number but it shows that the movement is not dying but pressing on in spite of tremendous difficulties and stubborn prejudice. There is no year when it has not its number of widow marriages. True they are a mere drop in the ocean—but the beginning is made and it is the first few widow marriages that tell, few though they are of what is slowly but surely coming on. My friend, Professor Karve, who ought to know, tells me that the Widow Marriage Association of the Deccan has on its roll the number of 800 as open sympathisers, of whom 100 openly dine with remarried couples. An England-returned Brahmin—a member of the Indian Civil Service—married the daughter of a remarried couple at Poona and the marriage was attended by a large number of Brahmins: and I have it from those who ought to know that the widow marriage movement is steadily gaining ground at Nagpur in the Central Provinces. The gift of Rs. 2,000 and an Inam land of 12 acres by Mr. Gurum Veerareddi of Palnadu for a building for a Widows' Home at Guntur is another encouraging sign of the times in this direction. That we are not pleading in vain for the child widow—that her cause is not so hopeless and helpless as some would represent is perhaps attested by no fact more clearly than this that my friend Prof. Karve has been able to get Rs. 12,500 this year from about 800 people all over India for the Hindoo Widows' Home in Poona without difficulty and in most cases unsolicited.

(To be continued.)

It is reported in Belgrade that the Metropolitan of Belgrade, who solemnised the marriage between the late King Alexander and Queen Draga, and who was the only official personage who displayed a mourning flag over his residence on the day of the assassination of their Majesties, is to be relieved of his post.

COTTON IN BOMBAY.

MILLS TO BE SHUT DOWN.

THE crisis in the American and Liverpool markets has a serious bearing upon the cotton trade of Bombay, and the industry is likely to be greatly influenced by the fluctuations, so rapid and so uncertain, which have brought about a situation amounting almost to a panic at home. Whilst in this city speculators have not entered into the struggle with the frantic energy that has been displayed in the West still there is a very uncertain tendency in the market. A glance at our commercial columns will prove that prices are up very considerably, and at the present moment it is a moot point whether either to-morrow or in the near future there will not be a general shutting down of mills. One of the leading firms of this city, we believe, intend to close down a number of the mills in which they are interested, to-morrow. This is a serious conclusion to arrive at, and one can hardly foretell at a casual glance the effect that it will have upon the trade and industries of the city generally. It will mean, in the first place, loss of employment to large numbers of operatives. It will mean serious loss to the manufacturers themselves, and loss in more ways than one. The retirement from the market will necessitate loss of touch with it, and possible loss of custom for the future. Of course not all the mill-owners of the city were unprepared for the crisis. There are some who have laid in sufficient supplies of the raw material for immediate necessities at any rate, and this fact is proved by the manner in which the mills are still working. One thing is quite obvious in Bombay at any rate. There is no cotton famine, and nothing approaching it. Possibly supplies are a little shorter than they were last year, but there is no reason to believe that demands could not be met. Cotton merchants seem indisposed to believe that the spinners and weavers of Western India would go the length of shutting down. However that remains to be seen, and it is quite obvious that while prices remain as they are the manufacturer cannot work at a profit.

We have remarked that the influence of the market of America has affected prices in this city. Of course that could not be avoided. But there are other influences at work and one of the most potent of these is the condition of the exchange in China. Recently the political situation in the Far East has greatly affected the price of silver and this has added to the keenness of the present situation. Merchants seem to be of opinion that in the event of war in the Far East, the position in Bombay would recover. This is assuming, of course, that China herself were not involved. But the closing down of Japanese mills would be Bombay's opportunity, and the effect would be felt long after the cessation of hostilities and would probably impart a great stimulus to the cotton industry of this city. On the other hand should China be involved the business of Bombay would be dislocated. That goes without saying, and the price of cotton would then become a secondary factor in the problem. All these influences have been at work to bring about a situation that is causing a great deal of anxiety in the city; and it is unfortunate that at a period when trade was recovering itself, and when the city was beginning to realise a measure of prosperity these disturbing influences should have been brought to bear upon the cotton market. The crisis, it is to be feared, will make itself felt in other directions. Recently the hardware business has been progressing with great rapidity, and, we believe, we are correct in stating that during the last few months a record quantity of iron and steel manufactures have been imported into this city. There was every reason to hope that this state of things would be maintained, but the dislocation of the mill business would at once bring about a retrograde movement.

Whilst the present condition of affairs is maintained in the United States little improvement may be expected here, and in this connection perhaps it would be interesting to quote the opinion of the Bears of the New York market upon this section of the cotton financiers of the States is bulling the stress of the present situation. However, speaking of the crop, they say: "Some argue that if the "guess" is as nearly correct as that of last season a crop of 10,330,000 bales is assured. Add to this, say, 5 per cent. for increased spinning quality, and 300,000 bales which is generally reckoned to be a fair estimate of the quantity grown last season and not picked owing to the exceedingly bad weather of last winter, which is hardly likely to occur this season, and we get a total yield of 11,100,000. Then again consumption this season will not be more than 10,500,000, so there will be an ample supply. Remember that prices are 2½d. per lb. dearer than they were last year, and this may still further decrease consumption. The tendency just now is to over-rate consumption and under-estimate the yield. It is the fashion and sentiment has a lot to do with the speculative effect. The present situation of affairs should be likened to a gigantic bubble which may burst at any moment. Logical and statistical facts carry no weight just now, but sooner or later the inexorable rule of supply and demand should become the dominant factor."

This is the situation at home and as will be seen the "bears" are by no means hopeless. In Bombay merchants and spinners are anxious, but they have not lost confidence. We have said that several mills will not open to-morrow. More are likely to follow suit as soon as their yarn contracts have been completed, and we are also informed that many mills are trying to rebuy their previous sales to enable them to close earlier. What will be the issue of the difficulty it would be folly to attempt to predict.

THE HENRY DALLAS COMPANY.

"A RUNAWAY GIRL."

The Henry Dallas Company appeared again last night at the Novelty Theatre in the old but always welcome musical comedy, "A Runway Girl," and the popularity of the Company was amply proved by the splendid audience which gathered to greet them. Before the curtain rose the announcement was made that Mr. Percival Knight was ill with fever and consequently would not appear. While this announcement was heard with sincere regret by all present, it is gratifying to state that the performance went off smoothly with the substitution of Mr. Cochrane in the prominent part of "Flipper," the Jockey, and the audience while missing the drollery and spontaneous witticisms of Mr. Knight, thoroughly enjoyed and applauded his substitute for his clever and conscientious work on such short notice. The substitution of Mr. Cochrane for Mr. Knight necessitated several other changes in the caste, but there were practically no hitches of any kind and the whole entertainment went with its usual brightness and gaiety. As the illness of Mr. Knight is not serious we are assured that he will positively appear to-morrow evening when he will impersonate his well-known character of "Tommy Bangs" in the "Messenger Boy."

SEVENTY persons have been arrested at Foggia for belonging to a society whose objects are robbery and murder. At the head-quarters of the society at Barletta there was a school for the members, who were taught the best way to rob and assassinate quickly. The members paid a monthly subscription, and graduated according to the amount of money they brought to the funds of the society. For two years they have terrorised the towns of the Adriatic. Whenever members were arrested by the police on charges of murder comrades came forward, and by proving an alibi obtained their acquittal.

ART, MUSIC, AND THE DRAMA.

ART SILVER WARE.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

LONDON, DECEMBER 11.

M. Maeterlinck might have gone further when in his fanciful essay of last week he asked us to imagine what the earth would have been without flowers. He might have credited them, beyond the beautification of our woods and gardens, with having inspired our decorative arts as nothing else has done, except, perhaps, the human figure. But they exceed even this exception in their facility of adaptation, and the metalworker who can blend a flower-shape to his purpose commands a wider area of invention than the modeller from the nude. Simple ideas patiently wrought out on the lines of beauty and utility as well, are rarer, however, than is admitted by those sanguine people, the enthusiasts for applied art. The artist who develops this gifts in this direction too often finds his metal medium quick and responsive as compared with the inappreciative public to whom he appeals. Commercialism, the passion for machinery, and a love of superficial ornament are a combination of discouragements it requires no slight amount of heroism to face. And our best amateurs, especially in some of the less frequented crafts, may be excused for despairing whether they will ever really displace the tawdry stereotypes of fashion and the market. It is well for these devoted workers that if art has but few ultimate rewards, she is lavish with her consolations along the way. Simplicity and beauty are easily seen to be the distinctive merits in a display of silver ware at the Quest Gallery, in Bond-street. The hammered work of Mr. Gilbert Marks is too well-known to be discovered or turned into a sensation of the hour. His dishes, goblets, and caskets here exhibited are true to the highest principles of design—logical in their proportion, studiously adapted to their material and purpose, perfect in outline, and exactly sufficient in their ornamental detail. Mr. Marks prefers a quiet surface, but it is a legitimate effect produced by delicate manipulation of the hammer, and not through doctoring or dipping. A tulip or rose worked up through the level of silver develops a natural association of leaf and stem, and the excrescence is so arranged as in no way to impair the shape or poise of the vessel in hand. No one asks more of any craftsman than this, and if there is a fault in the display it is not to be ascribed to Mr. Marks. It is that pieces like these are intended to be complete "per se," and a group of thirty or forty on one table, while it reveals the industry and fertility of the artist, does not conduce to our enjoyment piece by piece. The same may be said of the silver work alongside, which comes from the studio of Miss Beatrice Parsons. Some of it is rather harder in form, and this strength is emphasised by polish of surface; but there is a bowl with blossom decoration worked outwards, which justifies this sterner treatment and bears a convincing effect of weight and solidity. Luxuriance of decoration is the key note of a mass of other in the exhibition, sent in by an Anglo-Italian artist of great ability. But the result is often a surfeit of design in his case, and his departures from strict outline are somewhat irregular. Yet, at the worst, there is not a piece in the triple display which is not immeasurably above the ordinary level of more marketable ware, and it seems a pity and a folly to buy commonplace trophies at so much per ounce when work with so much taste and talent in it is within easy reach.

On Tuesday night a choral and orchestral concert was given in the concert-hall of the Royal College, under the direction of Sir Charles V. Stanford, in honour of the centenary of Berlioz. In such a connection one need do little more than praise the artistic spirit which prompts modern teachers and modern young musicians to realise how great a man and how great a musician was Hector Berlioz. At one time it was considered almost a drawback, in the utterance of any musical critic, to praise Berlioz within a long distance beyond that which he is now hailed as a master. Wagner, in his insistent way, raped to the front, and seized all the laurels which had been patiently awaited by Berlioz. It was Wagner who practically sent his rival back to a position which it has taken him nearly half a century to retrieve. Nowadays we have at last realised that that position is no longer a doubtful one; and the Royal College Concert of last night was in every respect so good that we cannot but doubt that, by the help of such exhibitions of scholarly attainments, the position and the right rank which belongs to Hector Berlioz will be helped towards the place when it will be finally settled for all time. The Dramatic Symphony "Romeo and Juliet," which in parts foreshadows quite certainly many occasional effects which Wagner made in his later operatic work, is surely one of the most poetical and beautiful compositions to be reckoned with in modern music. The design is extraordinary; and we use that epithet because, until the time of Berlioz, no man had in the same degree so greatly dared to follow the thoughts of literature as they fled before him into the recesses of the art which Berlioz made his own. It is well known that Berlioz greatly disliked scholastic music for its own sake; and here he is found to use the Fugue, for example, with almost a poignant sense of its dramatic significance. In fact, you have in Berlioz the founder and the creator of all that is most engrossing in modern music. Liszt, a contemporary; Wagner, a student; Richard Strauss, a successor; Edward Elgar, student and scholar—all these great masters have, as it seems to us, to retreat upon Hector Berlioz in order to express their modern thought and to develop that thought by modern ways of orchestration. For he, indeed, was the greatest masters of orchestra of these times. It says very much for the College performance last night that nearly every point was brought out with no uncertain effect by the orchestra under the direction of Sir Charles Stanford, who himself showed an intimacy with Berlioz that was quite pleasing to note. The chorus was capital; the sopranos especially sang with great clearness and distinction; we select them for praise, chiefly because their position, so far as the work was concerned, was rather more important than at all attended to the other parts. Mr. F. Aubrey Millward sang the part of the Friar very well indeed; and from a general point of view we are bound to say that the concert did a most distinct honour to the memory of him who has been rightly described as the Father of Modern Instrumental Music.

"The Earl and the Girl," a musical comedy by Mr. Seymour Hicks and Mr. Ivan Caryll has been produced for the first time at the Adelphi theatre. The work certainly achieved a popular success. The music is marked by great intelligence, and although on the one side it does not fulfil the ideal of Offenbach, while on the other it does not fulfil the thought of Sullivan, it steers, nevertheless, neatly between these two ideals, and thereby makes for a certain success which must be reckoned as peculiar to itself. Mr. Caryll has a gift of tune which is quite exceptional among modern composers. He has the capacity of giving to his hearers a certain reminiscent feeling in music which seems to offend neither the audience nor the players engaged to interpret his music. To assert that Mr. Caryll has in any possible way entered into the place left vacant by Sir Arthur Sullivan would be quite absurd; and yet his score of "The Earl and the Girl" is quite ingenious, and is also full of such significant points as Sullivan used to delight in. The new musical comedy is distinguished by the inclusion of a great many members whose work used to delight the audiences which fore gathered at the old Savoy. Mr. Walter Passmore, who from every point of view, made the most of the comedy allotted to his part, was only monotonous in so far that his costume was not sufficiently varied. His sense of comedy is much more restrained now than of old it used to be; he has a sentiment of language, a feeling for words which at one time was by no means apparent; such an idea he seemed to submerge in a general principle of comedy. He is now, to our mind, a really great comedian whose artistic ambitions need not be measured by the common language of the crowd. It would be more than an utterly superfluous task to attempt a

description of the plot of "The Earl and the Girl," for indeed, plot it has not. Form a certain idea arising from a love-match "between a Nobleman and a Lady the whole thing develops into a mere music-hall show in which many actors and actresses of considerable repute take chief parts. Miss Agnes Fraser, in the character of an American heiress, showed that she was possessed of all the qualities which have made the Savoy Theatre so notable and so fine a theatrical element in our stage life of the last twenty years. Indeed, here was, to all intents and purposes, the Savoy transplanted for our delectation to a new stage; and therewith the old traditions were newly fulfilled. Mr. Robert Evett sang as a tenor might have sung had he stepped out from one of Mr. Gilbert's pictures in his famous play, "Ages Ago"—that is to say, he realised a certain sentiment of old-time feeling and of old-time thought which were altogether through this delightful wizardry of Mr. Seymour Hicks, reminiscent and significant.

The mounting of the piece was extraordinarily fine. Throughout, the sense of colour was most delicately observed; the contrasts between the eternal yellow of the sun and the paler colours of the flowers of the earth when observed with rigid accuracy, and with a fine sense of observation. Of course, in these days, one expects that the feeling for splendour should always be realised upon the stage; but one does not always expect to find beauty running in harness with a new production, which is signalised by special care in the setting. Mr. Seymour Hicks, however, has shown that the combination is possible. We only have to recall to memory the exquisite colour of the final tableau, to understand how excellent an artistry is now applicable even to the "comic stage," as the Greeks of old expressed the matter. Mr. Henry Lytton, in the somewhat complex part of Dick Wargrave, was clever and effective; but we are bound to say that he never gave himself the chance of departing from a somewhat stolid tradition which he seems to have accepted as the invariable standpoint from which every particular item of his art should be fulfilled. Miss Louie Pounds, in the part of Daisy Fellowfield, repeated, so it seemed to us an old Savoy success; but although she did not exactly show herself in a new light, everybody who heard her must surely have been contended with the fact that she was her natural self. A special word should be given to Miss Phyllis Broughton, who took a quite superfluous part; Miss Broughton has so great a vitality, and invariably makes so much for the enjoyment of an audience, that it is only necessary to say that, though she had far too little to do in the course of the piece, she did that little extremely well. Nevertheless, it seems to us that so fine a saucer as she is should not be allotted the task of doing little more than dragging about a train of Imperial blue velvet across the stage. Miss Florence Lloyd realised the part of a coster girl with marked success. The mounting of the piece was quite superb; not only was the clouring at every point most beautiful, but at times, by the sheer effect of lighting, the seal, was made exquisit ly fine in its splendid effectiveness of colour. One particular scene, in which (as one may say) there was exhibited a study in yellows, ranging from the deepest orange to the palest primerose, was extraordinarily beautiful in its ultimate result. The pale colour of cane chairs, the yellow cushions against which the girls leaned, the deeper yellows of the frocks of the dancers, and the final touch of crimson which in the end completed the scene, made up an "ensemble" of amazing beauty. Therefore, however we may regard the new piece at the Adelpi Theatre from a musical or dramatic standpoint, we cannot but give it our full meed of admiration from the artistic point of view.

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THIRD DAY.

THE Conference held its third sitting yesterday in the shamianah on the Esplanade the Hon. Mr. Justice Badruddin Tyabjee presiding. There was a large attendance in all parts of the shamianah and the interest in the proceedings continued unabated. Two Mahomedan gentlemen delivered verses and recitations in praise of the promoters of the Conference—the chief leader Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk being described as the strongest pillar which supported the entire edifice.

The president announced that Maharaja Sir Kisan Persad of Hyderabad had contributed Rs. 500 to the Conference funds and a telegram had been received from H. H. the Aga Khan en route to Calcutta, stating that a Parsee gentleman who did not wish his name to be disclosed contributed Rs. 200 to the fund. Other sums had also been received, which would be duly entered in the accounts. There were many resolutions and a good deal of business yet to be gone through and the president asked the speakers to be brief in their remarks.

It was then proposed by Mr. Shaik Nainuddin and seconded by Mr. Gulam Mahomed Munshee and supported by Syed Mahomed Akbar Peer Saheb, Mr. Faiz B. Tyabjee and others that this Conference is of opinion that all patriotic Musalmen should pay a sum between eight annas and one rupee on such auspicious occasions as marriages to the local central committee for the purpose of advocating Mahomedan education.

The president, in putting the resolution to the vote, expressed his pleasure at the fact that it was supported not only by laymen, but also by moulvies, pirs, and others whose mission it was to expound the mandates of their religion to their co-religionists.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried by acclamation.

It was then proposed by Mr. S. Abdulla that this Conference is of opinion that, to improve the social and moral condition of the students, it is essential that a Muslim university on the model of the European universities be established in India. The speaker, in laying the proposition before the meeting, spoke at length of the abilities, disinterested zeal, and self-sacrifices made by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the founder of the Aligarh College, which would be said, serve as a model for the proposed university.

The proposition was seconded by Mr. Shaik Abdul Kadir who referred in terms of high praise to the zeal and energy of Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk in strengthening the College and in promoting its interests and extending its usefulness.

Mr. T. W. Arnold, in supporting the proposition, spoke of the needs and present condition of the Mahomedan community, and expressed his opinion that the best thing to do in present circumstances would be to expand and develop the Aligarh College into a university. A foundation for the latter had already been laid in the former; and the chief credit for it was due to the foresight and zeal of Nawab Mohsin ul Mulk who had been doing his best in the interests of his community during several years past. The speaker expressed his conviction that the community could not do better than expand the Aligarh College into a University.

At the sitting of the Conference after luncheon in the absence of Mr. Justice Badruddin Tyabjee, who retired owing to indisposition, Mr. Mahdi Hassan, barrister-at-law, Hoshungabad, was called to the chair.

It was next proposed by Mr. Aziz Mirza that this Conference thinks it desirable that the trustees of the late Mr. Haji Sulleman Sait, prince merchant of Bander, who has bequeathed a splendid sum for charity ought to spend it in the encouragement of education. The proposition was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Several contributions were here made to the fund for the proposed university. The president made an annual grant of Rs. 120 to the fund.

It was then proposed by Khan Saheb Mahomedali Moosabay and seconded by Mr. Syed Moinuddin and carried, that this Conference thinks that religious education be imparted along with secular education; and that the Government of India be requested to grant permission to Mahomedans to introduce religious education in Government as well as Municipal schools on the same lines on which it has been permitted by the Government of the United Provinces and the Punjab by their Resolution No. 144 of 25th July, 1885.

Mr. Husain B Tyebjee supported the resolution in a short address, which was received with much applause. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Moulvi Shibli, late Professor of Aligarh College, then delivered an address in Urdu on "Islam and its Relation to Education and Wealth," after which the Conference adjourned till 11 a.m. to-day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—In the report of the Mahomedan Conference published in your paper of to-day, you state that a Moulvi offered one rupee on condition that it be put up to sale. Allow me to point out that this is not correct. He made no condition whatever when he gave it. It was some time after he had given it that some one from the audience suggested that it should be put up to auction for reasons which need not be mentioned here. The same was the case with the contribution of Miss S. Sorabji.—Yours &c.

GULAM MOHAMED MUNSHI.

December 30.

THE FAR EAST.

RUSSIA, JAPAN AND CHINA.

THE China papers just to hand contain the following items of news regarding the situation in the Far East:—

It is believed in well-informed circles in Tokio that Viceroy Alexeieff is going home very shortly.

Business continues in a depressed condition in Japan and the unemployed funds lying in the banks are steadily increasing owing to the existing political uncertainty. The sum held by banks having unemployed deposits is over a million.

At a conference of all the Foreign Ministers with Prince Ching the Russian Minister disclaimed any authority in Manchuria but said that Russia would only evacuate on being repaid all the money she has spent there, on being given the sole mining rights in Manchuria and no open ports being established there.

The "Japan Mail" of 19 Nov. says: "We do not profess to understand the inwardness of Russia's leisurely procedure but we are emphatically persuaded that she may carry her procrastination too far, and that the amicable settlement which the Czar doubtless desires will be imperilled if the Diet opens on a continuance of the present uncertainty."

It is currently reported in Peking that Russia has enrolled no less than thirty thousand Chinese under her banners, one half of that number being malcontents dissatisfied with the rule of the Empress Dowager and her advisers. The other half serving under the Russians are said to be ex-bandits, the followers of some of the most noted brigand chiefs of Chihli and Manchuria.

The Taiyo Doshi Kai is still busy with resolutions says the "Kobe Chronicle." The latest was passed by the Committee on November 28 and was to the following effect:—"The Association regarding as procrastinating and tedious the methods adopted by the Government in regard to the negotiations with Russia, has repeatedly warned the Government. We hear now that, for the first time, the Government sent an ultimatum to the Russian Government at the end of last month. Since then another month has elapsed and nothing has yet been heard from Russia. From this we must conclude that Russia has no real intention of settling the question peacefully, and we therefore urge, under the circumstances, that the Japanese Government should abandon the present negotiations and take a free course. If the Government still hesitates to take a decisive course, the Ministers responsible must take the blame for failing in the great plan which must fashion the destiny of the Empire for centuries."

The "Kokumin" says that "were if not for the fact that Japan respects peace and has no desire to promote her interests alone at the expense of others, she might address herself once more to the pleasant task of relieving the world of its gross delusion that Russia is really any more formidable than China was. On the other hand, General Wogack is reported to have told Viceroy Yuan that Japan is a small and poor country which cannot do anything. She can be easily beaten in a single engagement.

The "Japan Times" says—The nation is ready, the nation yearns for action and we sincerely hope that the Imperial Government will not betray the grave responsibility with which a unique conjunction of circumstances has invested it.

The reference to the dissolution of the Japanese Diet it is interesting to read what an Osaka journal wrote, in a somewhat prophetic strain quite recently. The 'Asahi' says that Kim Giok-kin, a Corean refugee, was stabbed to death at Chefoo a short time prior to the declaration of war against China, and the Diet was dissolved. The war followed these events. Now U Han-zen has been assassinated and if the coming session of the Diet should be dissolved there will be a repetition of the course of events of a few years ago.

A Port Arthur correspondent under date November 18th writes:—A good deal of activity is going on here at present in military circles. Twelve fine new regiments arrive here from the north yesterday. They were the 23rd 27th 28th 32nd, and 108th; all of them East Siberian Regiments, so that we have now here, in addition to the abovenamed, the 2nd 5th, 14th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th at least. Quite a considerable number of Japanese gentlemen seemed to arise out of the earth on the appearance of these troops, which they followed at a respectful distance, displaying on the way such a keen interest in the geology and botany of the district through which they passed that their object was, I presume, purely scientific. The Russians did not seem to notice them. I do not know if all the above regiments are here or only a part of some of them, but it is very doubtful in any case if Russia ever keeps here a very large force, which would only be a source of weakness instead of strength on account of its tendency in case of siege to exhaust the stock of provisions and increase the danger of sickness, while not adding to the strength of the place, which could be perfectly well defended by a garrison of 20,000, including the fortress infantry. Chaplains have been appointed to the 28th, 27th, and 28th East Siberian Regiments, which are referred to as the regiments "newly formed in Port Arthur." On the 18th of October the Vladivostock fortress infantry regiments were incorporated, the 1st with the 26th, and the 2nd with the 30th East Siberian Sharpshooters.

The "Universal Gazette" gathers that the British Minister at Peking has definitely decided not to interfere with the Manchurian Question. If the present negotiations should result in peace, then whatever concessions Russia should obtain from China, Great Britian will demand the same. Should it end in war, then Great Britain would wait until the war finished and whatever power and influence the Russians would then hold Great Britain would insist on having the same.

A MIGHTY JAPANESE FLEET.

A Sasebo telegram, dated 23rd November, says:—The third division of the Japanese Standing Squadron under Admiral Dewa, consisting of the Chitose (flag ship), Yoshino, Tokasago, Kasagi Akashi, Suma, and Hiyei, which have been cruising along Hakodate, Karafuto and Imari, reached Sasebo on the 20th ulto. The first division of the Standing Squadron under the Commander-in-chief Admiral Toko, consisting of Shikishima (flagship), Hatsuse (Admiral Nashiba's flagship), Asahi, Mikasa, Fuji, and a portion of the fleet of destroyers consisting of the Kasumi, Akatsuki Shirakuno and Asashio reached Sasebo on the 21st ultimo. The second division under Admiral Kamimura, consisting of the Idzumo (flagship), Iwate, Azuma, Tokiwa, Yokumo and Adzuma and the destroyers Inodzuma, Usakumo and Murokuno entered Sasebo on the 22nd ultimo. Thus with the portion of the Standing Squadron already in the Admiralty Port, consisting of the Yashima, Matsushima, Baiyo, Oshima, Chokai and Katsuragi, with destroyers and torpedo boats, the whole Squadron now consists of more than fifty war vessels. This formidable gathering presents one of the grandest and most impressive assemblages of naval strength ever seen together in the Far East. After taking in coal and provisions, this mighty squadron will proceed to an unknown destination, perhaps in the Korean sea near Chin-man-pho.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

A Tientsin correspondent, writing on November 19th says:—The bellicose attitude so hopefully adopted by Chinese for a few days after the re-occupation of Moukden, has all fizzled out and she has sunk back into her craven apathy. The arrival of Gen. Wogack and several other Russians straight from St. Petersburg has not helped matters. Native correspondents do not hesitate to say that he has come back with plenty of money which he is quite prepared to spend, hence we hear that in official circles the reports are that things are going to be favourably settled. The Empress Dowager in a recent interview is said to have inquired of some high officials how long they could possibly hold out in making a stand against Russia. A Viceroy told her they might hold out a month and a General told her that he fancied he might fight for three days, but doubted if his ammunition would hold out longer. The Empress Dowager is said to have been aghast at such information and to have exclaimed, "Had I known things were like this nothing would have induced me to have left Hsian." Urgent messages are being continually sent to keep the Palace at Hsianfu in order and at any moment a quiet flitting in that direction may take place. The Eunuch Li is always urging her to go there and presently the situation will grow more desperate. Both the Empress Dowager and Li are reported to be ailing.

According to a Northern dispatch, the Mongol Prince of Alatsin (who passed through Shanghai last spring, with his two sons on a visit to Hongkong and Singapore and back to Peking again) has received instructions to mobilise every able-bodied Mongol of his tribe and league and organise and drill them in the modern fashion. For this purpose a number of Japanese officers have been engaged, while some two hundred Sergeants, as well as about thirty graduates of the Chinese military academy have received orders to start at once for Alatsin. The Mongols of this League consisting of a number of tribes, number over 30,000 fighting men.

REBELLION IN HUNAN.

The "Sin Wan Pao" gathers that in a certain province adjoining Kwangsung, there are some desperadoes numbering over a thousand, who have formed themselves into a brotherhood with the object of raising a rebellion, and the authorities of the said Province have sent capable officials to the disturbed district to investigate the trouble. The leader of the brotherhood is by name Chu, and Chao is the name of the second man.

A Changsha, capital of Hunan province, dispatch received at Shanghai states that an effort is to be made by malcontents of that province to restore the Ming, or last Chinese dynasty previous to the present Manchu one, which ousted it during the seventeenth century, and that a secret society has been formed called the Kwangfu Hui, or Society for the Restoration of the Light; that is to say, the members wish the Ming or Brilliant Dynasty, to be restored. Already the society has a membership of nearly two thousand, although only a couple of months old, so disgusted are the people in many of the provinces at the weakness and procrastinating policy of the Manchus. The chief of the society is a man of the surname of Chu—the surname of the Ning dynasty Imperial House—and he claims to be a lineal descendant of the Emperors whose dynasty he wishes to restore. It is further alleged that unlike many other existing secret societies in the Empire, the majority of the members of the new society are well off and educated men. There is also a report that several leaders of the Kwangsi rebels, who have been investing the Imperial claims of the Chief of the Kwangfu Hui, are satisfied that he is what he claims and are preparing to cross over into the Hunan borders to his assistance. This, it is believed, will greatly complicate the crisis in the South.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE THRONE.

It is reported from Peking that Prince Tsai Chen 4th Order, President of the Ministry of Commerce (Shangpu) recently recommended to the Throne the following seven suggestions:—(1) That members of the Imperial Clan be appointed to posts in the various Tartar garrison in the Empire, so as to properly fit them for active service as commanders and leaders of armies in time of war. (2) That high officials of the 3rd and higher grades be sent to travel in Europe and the United States to study the political and economic condition of the various countries they may visit and so widen their scope of knowledge and experience. (3) That a law should be made compelling the people of the Empire to serve as soldiers for a certain period of their lives. (4) That rifle and ammunition factories and gun foundries on a large scale be ordered to be constructed without delay in Szechuan, Shansi, and Shensi provinces. (5) That all public temples be taken possession of by the authorities and every one of them be turned into schools of various grades for the education of the children and youths of the places in which said temples happen to be located. (6) That a law be promulgated making attendance at school compulsory for all children beginning from the age of ten years. (7) That the police system of the Empire be recognised and that special technical schools and colleges for the study of law, etc., be established to the graduates of which may be given the task to reform the country in order to meet existing conditions.

POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN JAPAN.

A KOREAN VENDETTA.

A sensational political assassination is reported from Japan, the victim being U. Han-zen, one of the Korean political refugees in Japan. He was assassinated at Kure by two Koreans named Ko Ei-gen and Ro In-mei, who are supposed to have been sent by Korean officials of the Government to watch U Han-zen. The assassinated refugee was one of the high officials in the Korean Government and fled to Japan in 1895 after the murder of the Korean Queen. It is stated that one of the assassins, Ko Ei-gen, is a relative of the Queen. The assassins afterwards surrendered to the police when there was found under the dress of Ko Ei-kon a written statement to the effect that he had sworn to avenge the death of the "Mother of the Nation," Ko Ei-kon confessed to the police that he had at last accomplished the deed which had been his object for nine years. The murdered man comes of an old Korean military family, when the Korean army was reorganised some years ago, he was appointed an ensign, and upon the complete reorganisation of the army in 1894 under Japanese officers, U Han-zen was promoted to the rank of Major and appointed to the command of a battalion. He was prominent in the disturbance of October 1895, during which the Queen of Korea was murdered, and when the new Cabinet was organised he was appointed a member and also a General in the army.

Ko Ei-kon, the principal of the assassins, was a family servant of the late Queen, and at one time a Colonel. He fled to Japan in 1899, the result of a neat plot on his part for deceiving the refugees there as to his true character. In the character of friend, Ko Ei-kon approached Han-zen, and it is said intended when the latter was killed and Queen avenged, to return to Korea and take a high official position. He went to Osaka and watched Han-zen, also forming a friendship with Cho Gi-yen, another leading refugee and at one time Korean Minister for War. Ultimately Ko Ei-kon found the opportunity he had evidently long waited for. He was invited Kure by Han-zen, with the tragic result given by report. It is stated that there is still a number of Koreans in Japan ready to follow the example of Ko Ei-kon in exterminating the remaining refugees.

MORE MISREPRESENTATION.

MR. JOHN SMEDLEY whom we brought to task during his stay in India is apparently still engaged at Home giving his extraordinary views on our affairs. The following copy of a letter addressed by Mr I. Parkinson Hudson to the "Belper News" tells its own tale:—

Sir,—I have before me a copy of your paper of Friday last which contains the report of a lecture given by Mr. John Smedley in the Public Hall, Belper entitled "India; its Social and Political Condition."

As one who resided in India for a period of four years, and whilst there took an intelligent interest in its people and the conditions under which they were ruled I feel compelled to raise my voice in protest against the many false and misleading statements which Mr. Smedley made use of in the course of his lecture.

It appears to me that instead of trying to place some facts concerning India before his audience, he was simply seeking an outlet for the very extraordinary feelings he appears to entertain towards the British Government and the Government of India. I consider that to ask his hearers, an I the readers of your paper, to accept some of the statements he made is a deliberate insult to their common sense and intelligence, and I am thankful to say that it has seldom been my lot to read such a tirade of gross and grotesque misrepresentation, where, knowing something of the subject in question, I have been in a position to judge of the facts and truth of the matter for myself. Mr. Smedley says "that if any newspaper dared to criticise the action of the Indian Government the editor could be arrested and confined in gaol without trial by either judge or jury." Surely Mr. Smedley did not expect his listeners to believe this?

Many of your readers will doubtless recall how several years ago the editor of an Indian low-class paper, printed in the vernacular, was tried and sentenced for publishing matter which was simply red-hot sedition, and inciting the natives to revolt. There are a number of these low-class journals printed and disseminated in the Bazaars, and one cannot wonder that the Government are at times compelled to take action to check this in view of India's previous history and the many racial and caste prejudices which are at work. Of Mr. Smedley's statement that the natives of India are "tyrannised, oppressed, and wronged by the British Government," and many others of a similarly outrageous character which he made in the course of his speech it is really difficult for one to speak calmly and dispassionately.

It is, of course, quite impossible for me to answer him fully through the medium of this letter, but I beg to say that being in India at the time of the Penjdeh incident, and when Russia's aggressiveness was in everybody's mouth I had many long talks with various Indian tradesmen and others, men of education and of wide intelligence, and all appeared to be quite agreed upon the fact that their country had never been so prosperous and contented as under the beneficent rule of the British, and that it would indeed be a sad thing for the natives of India if ever they fell under the rule of Russia or its people were again left to govern themselves. Mr. Smedley's statement that the notice 'No dogs admitted,' at the entrance to the gardens enclosing the Memorial at Cawnpore, being intended to refer to natives, not being admitted, is too ludicrous for serious comment, and I leave it to your readers to judge as to the value which can be placed upon Mr. Smedley's credibility after making such an absurd statement from a public platform.

As an earnest lover of temperance, I would advise Mr. Smedley that the cause he advocates is little likely to be advanced by such intemperance of speech as displayed by himself, as for instance when he says: "The Government were not satisfied with grinding them (the natives) in the way indicated but flooded India with liquor shops, where the vilest poison was sold to the natives, they being tempted to spend a portion of their small wages in liquor to drown their misery, and thus enrich the Government." Such wild statements as these are but the output of a disordered imagination and are so palpably false that they require no answer from myself or indeed from anyone for it is a well-known fact how much the Indian Government have done, and are still endeavouring to do, to check the evils of drinking and the sale of the vile compounds of the Bazaars. In conclusion, I would commend to Mr. Smedley these two sayings, "Be ye temperate in all things," and "Be ye just before men."

THE "Siecle" is of opinion that in view of the good feeling existing between Great Britain and France the time is opportune for reviving the idea of constructing the Channel tunnel.

THE Paris edition of the "New York Herald" states that Fashoda is henceforth to be known as Kabak, out of deference for French feeling.

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE.

THE magnificent suite of apartments which represent what one might call, in homely phrase, King Edward's "spare room" at Windsor Castle, and in which the King and Queen of Italy have been lodged during their stay at Windsor, has several Royal memories to boast of. The German Emperor and Empress occupied it on the occasion of their visit to Queen Victoria in 1899, and an immense malachite vase which, with some extremely fine Italian pictures, decorates the Rubens room is a memorial of the Emperor Nicholas I., who was a guest at Windsor in 1844. There is a bust, too, of Victor Emmanuel I, who stayed there in 1855, and of Louis Napoleon. The finest room of all, however, is the Vandyck room, which has been used (says "The King and his Navy and Army") by King Victor as a sitting-room and contains a famous portrait of Charles I. by Vandyck, showing that ill-fated monarch's features from several points of view, after the manner of the "Richelieu" in the National Gallery.

A correspondent of a Manchester paper tells of a curious advertisement he saw at Niagara. It was a poor-class tailor's shop, with the usual ticketed goods, and one pair of trousers in a prominent position were labelled "99 cents per leg. Seat free."

A writer in "Chamber's Journal" gives some interesting reminiscences of Sir Frederick Leighton. The famous painter was an enthusiastic Volunteer and a member of the Artists Corps. From private he became corporal, sergeant, ensign (the rank of ensign not being then abolished), lieutenant, captain, and so on upwards. It was when he had attained to the latter rank that the King as Prince of Wales was married. The line of route from Hyde-park-corner to the Marble Arch was kept by the Metropolitan and other corps of Volunteers on the day when the Prince drove through the town with his bride-elect, the gracious and beautiful Princess from Denmark, who had but just arrived in England. When they had gone past, says the writer, Leighton whispered to me over his shoulder, "Isn't she lovely, Fenn, my boy? We would fight for her, wouldn't we?" He, of course referred to the Princess Alexandra.

Screens covered with picture postcards are becoming popular. They are very effective decorations, and have quite an educational value for nurseries and school-rooms. After the cards have been artistically arranged and pasted on the panels of the screen they should be varnished or covered with glass. One ingenious schoolboy has decorated a screen in this manner, and below the frieze of the postal-cards he has pasted on a dado of stamps and postmarks.

The motor-car opens up a new field for kidnappers. A participator in the recent American endurance run lost a passenger. Being forced to carry five people, without stopping, he grabbed a boy while passing through a small village. The boy was carried 120 miles, and, arriving wet, was given a warm bath, dry clothes, a bed for the night, and a return ticket, his parents in the meantime having been notified by wire.

Lord Rosebery is superstitious. I recollect (writes Mr Harry Furniss in the "Windsor Magazine") one Sunday afternoon walking in his grounds at the Durdans. He found a dead hedgehog on the path by the Epsom course. Lord Rosebery halted. "I wonder what that means? Had I seen it last Sunday—the Sunday before the Derby (which he had won)—in place of the day after, I should have been in a state! You know, one ran across my path at Eton just before I ran my first race. Isn't it strange?"

The ex-Queen of Italy also belongs to the list of famous people who are superstitious. She is so strong a believer in the ill-luck of sitting down thirteen to table that she will not make one of a party of that number; and when she held Court, the second aide-de-camp in waiting had always to be ready to obviate the necessity of having the fatal number. For this purpose he was summoned one evening to attend the Royal table, and did so, but meanwhile one of the invited guests had met with an accident and was prevented from coming so, the number was once more reduced to thirteen. The aide-de-camp was accordingly leaving the room, when the King exclaimed angrily: "Return to your place! When once anyone has taken his seat at my table, he eats his dinner there!" It is to be inferred from this that the King did not share the superstition of his Royal partner, and thirteen actually partook of the dinner.

An enterprising firm, endeavouring to solve the problem of unbreakable toys, has produced a doll made of sheet steel. These dolls, needless to say, are strong in fact need to be attacked in a very determined manner before any impression can be made—but they are neither heavy nor inartistic. Their smile is the kind which will not come off, for their complexion is of enamel, and the eyes are removable to accommodate little girls who have decided preferences as to brown eyes or blue. The hair can be removed for a shampoo or a change of complexion. They will talk, too, if one cares to pay for a phonograph attachment.

President Roosevelt is a most devoted father. Recently, with only his three youngest children for companions, he went on a nutting expedition into some neighbouring woods. The President climbed some of the trees and shook the nuts down, while the children scrambled for them. After they had secured all the nuts they wanted Mr. Roosevelt played childr en's games with them in the woods. It was after dark when the expedition returned to White House.

The Kaiser lately reviewed a feathered veteran of the German Army. One of his regimens has a pet magpie, which is full of militarism and very proud of its parade step. When the Kaiser visited regimental quarters recently he asked for this accomplished bird. A photograph of the incident shows the Kaiser sitting sternly in the saddle holding the magpie. The officers of the regiment, we are told, wore an expression of mingled anxiety and pride. Who can be sure of a magpie's tongue.

After laughing at the French people (says "Health") for their frog-eating propensities, the United States is doing very well in that line, for it is estimated that they catch annually in that country about two million frogs that they may use their toothsome hind legs for the gratification of their appetites. These frogs which have been hopping for years more and more into gastronomic favour, are sought for in all parts of the country furnishing a paying industry not only for the hunters of them in their natural haunts but for scores persons who have frog farms and raise them as they might raise chickens. To these persons the frogs mean an investment of £20,000, and that means £30,000 to the persons who consume them.

There are many stories of Bismarck's valet Pinnow, who has just died. When Pinnow filled his master's last pipe for him the day before he expired, the end of July, 1898, he was astonished at what he thought was a return to health and life. "What?" said he, "the Prince wants to smoke again? Well, the devil can fill his pipe for him." A few years before he trod on his master's foot and appeared most unhappy. Bismarck swallowed the pain he felt from his gouty limb, and turned to his servant to soothe him: "My dear Pinnow, I should have suffered no other European to tread on my corns. Pinnow served Prince Bismarck for twenty years, and was a veritable sphinx when any inquisitive journalist or politician tried to pump him.

In his rare appearances in the London clubs the late Henry Seton Merriman was one of the most unassuming and friendly of men. Though avoiding literary circles (says "The Man of Kent" in the "British Weekly"), he made some close literary friendships, particularly with Mr. Stanley Weyman. Mr. Seton Merriman, though delicate, was by no means an invalid, and in the delightful Suffolk home which he and his wife planned, he indulged himself in the recreation of golf. He was also much addicted to travelling. It turned out when he died that he had known for some years that he could not live long, as he suffered from an obscure and deadly form of heart disease.

Nor with a careless acquiescence are the people of Athens going to submit to the modernising and vulgarisation of the masterpieces of the Greek Dramatists. The other night the modern version of the "Oresteia" was produced under very singular conditions. The theatre was guarded by the military without and within, while around it surged a crowd of students determined to make as effective a protest as possible against the outrage on their national sentiments. The finale was given to this comedy of conflicting idea's when the cavalry, afraid of the look of things, charged the demonstrating crowd. There can be no complaint of a lack of actuality about the drama of a country where theatrical performances issue in a cavalry charge. How surprised a London public would have been if a recent famous incident, in which Mr. Walkley played a prominent part, had ended in the dramatic critic being awarded a strong guard of military! But they don't take artistic quarrels seriously enough in England.

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WRITER AND READERS.

Mr. Justin McCarthy is working steadily at the book in which he will tell the story of his own life, and a good part of it is written. In his two volumes of reminiscences which are now published, Mr. McCarthy dealt with other people rather than with himself.

Captain Mahan has been writing a group of articles on the war of 1812 between America and England. They are to appear serially in "Scribner's Magazine," and may be looked for in book form next autumn. All Captain Mahan's books sell well here, but his influence of Sea Power is easily first among them in popularity.

There are fifteen Essays and Addresses in the new book by Lord Avebury, which Messrs. Macmillan publish to-day. One deals with Huxley's life and work, another with John Ruskin, and a third with Richard Jefferies. A study of nature-poets by Lord Avebury's most popular writings while in paper on Bank Holidays suggests his work as a legislator. The question of the hour, fiscal policy, is another subject discussed in the book.

Two interesting novels are to be published by Messrs. Chatto in January. One is by Mr. David Christie Murray, and is entitled V.C.; a Chronicle of Castle Barford and the Crimean War. The other is by Mr. H. Mod. Bodkin, the Irish K.C., who has already written several stories. The present one is entitled Patsy, the Queen's Own, a word which in Ireland means simpleton.

Mr. Elbert Hubbard, who is an American, makes readable books out of journeys to the homes of famous people, dead or living. He has a new volume appearing with Messrs. Putnam under the title Little Journeys to the Homes of English Authors. His list includes Tennyson, Browning, Macaulay, Byron, Johnson, Southey, and Disraeli.

Next week Mr. Bateford will publish a brochure, in which Mr. Walter Crane and Mr. Lewis Day join forces. It is entitled Moot Points, and it consists of friendly disputes upon art, and is by way between the two authors. These disputes are the kind of discussions, such as artists are continually engaged in between themselves. The new thing is to print them word for word, as retort gave rise to answering retort.

It is not easy sometimes to harmonise the expeditious publication of books with the conditions of Anglo-American copyright. This has been proved once more in the case of Mr. Heinemann's illustrated history of English literature. Two volumes are available for Christmas presents, but the other two cannot appear until the 20th inst. The final volume deals fully with the work of the famous and venerable philosopher we have just lost.

Mrs. John Frankau is writing a new book on art, but it will not be published until next autumn. It deals with the lives and works of James and William Ward, and will be a companion to her book on John Raphael Smith. It will contain examples of the works of both the Wards, in colour and monochrome, in stipple and mezzotint. Special hand-made paper, reproducing both in texture and colour the exceptional features of the high-priced paper of the eighteenth century, is being used for the book, which Messrs. Macmillan announce.

As will be remembered, a team of Scottish curlers visited Canada and the United States last winter. Mr. George Morton, of Edinburgh, is publishing a fully illustrated book which gives an account of the tour. It is by the Rev. John Kerr, who entitles it Curling in Canada and the United States. He dwells on the opportunities which the Canadian winter affords for sports like curling and tobogganing. He also touches on the natural resources of Canada, and recalls agreeably the impressions which the Scottish curlers derived from their visit.

Senator Beveridge's book on the situation in the Far East, which Messrs Harper are about to issue, will be found characteristically American in its outspokenness. The Senator, beingonly forty, is regarded as a young hopeful of Congress, and to enlarge his knowledge of [illegible] he has gathered information on all hands and from the best sources, and his view is that a conflict is more or less inevitable. He thinks Germany almost as pushful as Russia herself in the Far East, and blames what he calls the negligent apathy of America and England.

Most people know something of the valuable work accomplished by the late Miss Eleanor Ormerod as an economic entomologist. The term is used by Professor Wallace, of Edinburgh, in a book about her which he has just edited for Mr. Murray. It contains an autobiography that she left, and her correspondence. She devoted herself to the discovery of means for overcoming the ravages which insects inflict upon our trees, crops, and live-stock. The methods that she pursued in thus bringing valuable assistance to the sorely tried British farmer are fully described in this book.

A book by Mr. H. Irving Hancock on Japanese physical training is to be published by Messrs. Putnam in January. The author calls it an account of the system of exercise, diet, and general mode of living which has made the Mikado's people the healthiest, strongest, and happiest men and women in the world. He says that the system is older than the authentic history of the Japanese. While they have adapted much Western civilisation, they have found nothing to surpass "jiu-jitsu" as an element in their national physical development. Mr. Hancock believes that the Japanese, though small in nature, are capable of greater endurance than any other people.

Within the next few days Mr. Murray will publish a elaborate book on the granting and validity of British patents. In a preface the author, Mr. James Roberts, says:—"The work is the result of many years' study of patents from a scientific and legal point of view. Its completion fortunately happens to coincide with a much-needed change of procedure. At the present time the greater number of patents granted in England are not only invalid and afford no legal protection to the inventor, but bring discredit upon all British patents. The work has a great many illustrations.

Messrs. Longman are relaxing, without pictures, the book on Charles II. which [illegible] Edmund Airy wrote for the Gonpil Series of Illustrated Biographies.—Dr. Murray's Romanes Lecture on the evolution of English lexicography is being issued in volume form by the Oxford University Press.—The elaborate work which Mr. Murray has had in preparation on the portraits of Mary Queen of Scots will be published next week.—Mr. Heinemann is publishing here an American book, Spencer Kellog Brown, which gives a stirring picture of life in Kansas in the middle of the last century.—Mr. J. S. Fletcher, who is perhaps best known by his pseudonym, "A Son of the Soil," is finishing a novel. His last volume, Owd Poskitt, published by Messrs. Harper, is a contribution, chiefly in Yorkshire dialect to fiscal literature.—The dictionary of slang and colloquial English which Mr. J. S. Farmer and the late Mr. W. E. Henley began many years ago is just being completed. The whole work makes seven volumes.

Sir John Robinson, who has died the age of seventy-five, was an honoured veteran of Victorian journalism a veteran who received well-merited decoration at the close of the long ascendancy of the party he served so faithfully. A journalist, from boyhood, sub-editor of "Douglas Jerrold's Newspaper" at eighteen, he was a mainstay of the "Daily News" for nearly half a century, until Mr. Lloyd, George's "coup d'etat" only two years ago. Thackeray ascended the editorial throne of the Cornhill Magazine with immense pride and jubilation, yet, as we all know, was not long in discovering that there were thorns in the cushion. Something of the same kind seems to have been Sir John Robinson's experience, for out of the long period that he served the "Daily News" he only consented to occupy the editorial chair for comparatively few years. It is understood that he leaves a book of reminiscences for posthumous publication.

The "Morning Post" publishes a declaration of some importance as to the Pope's intentions in the matter of his "imprisonment." It is a written statement sent privately in answer to the "Post's" correspondent's inquiries by one whose position in the immediate entourage of the Pope stamps his assertion with the impress of authority. He writes: "The Holy Father will remain in the Vatican a prisoner of the Italian Government."

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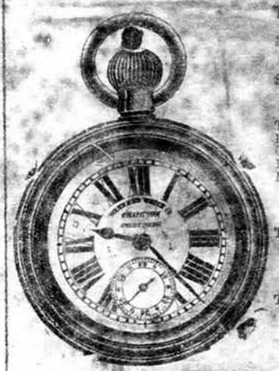

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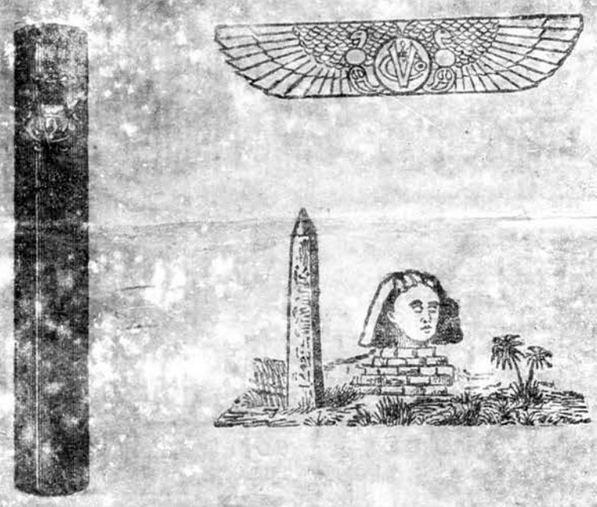

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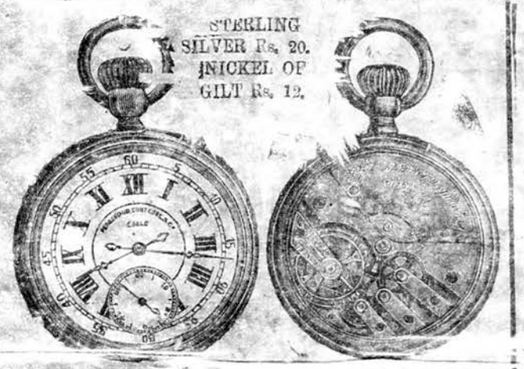

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